TEAM FORTRESS®

#7

VALVE

DEDICATED TO RICK MAY

ONE HELL OF A SOLDIER

TEAM FORTRESS®

#7

VALVE

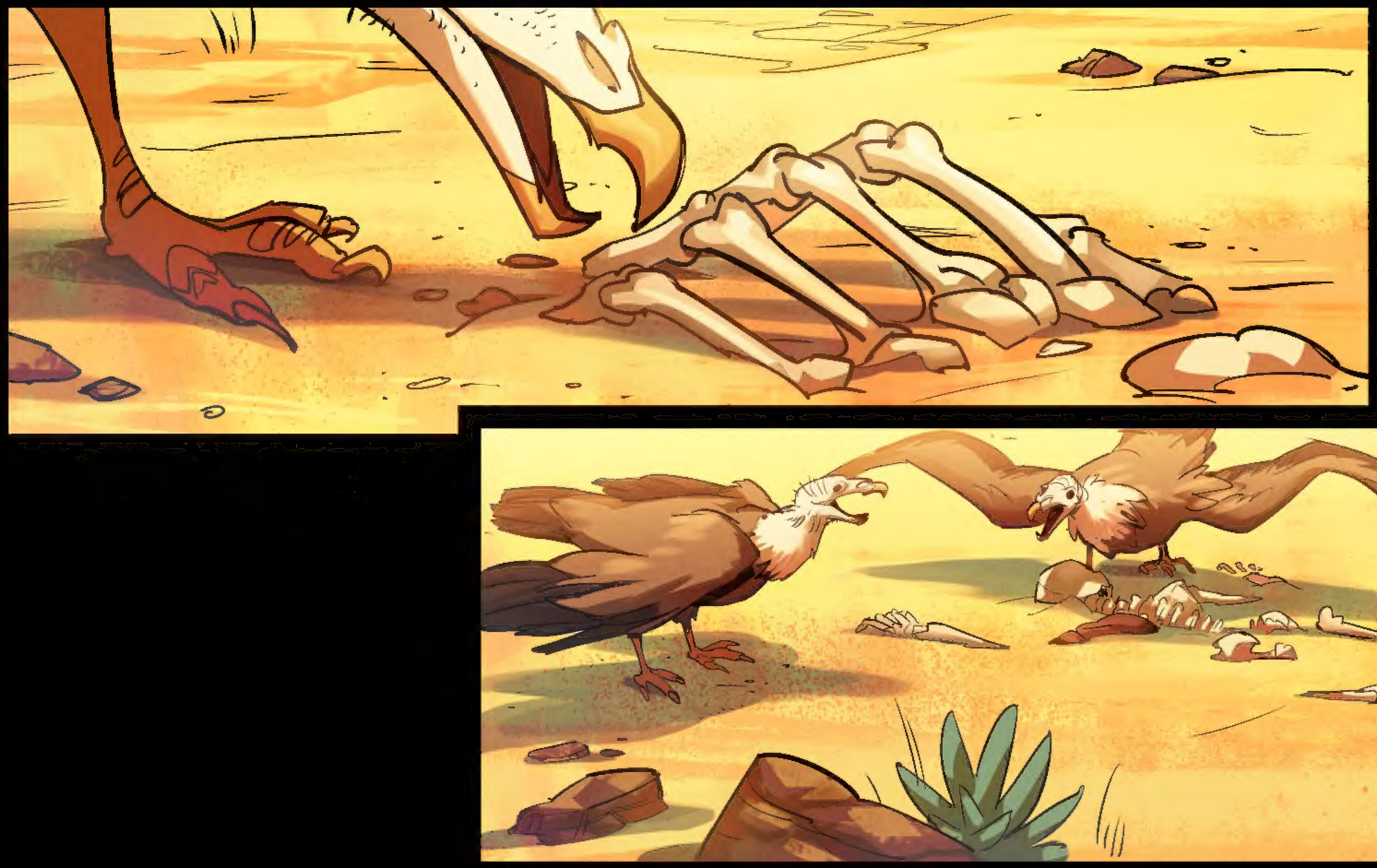
BADLANDS, NEW MEXICO

TEAM FORTRESS®

#7

VALVE

SEVEN YEARS LATER



BLAM

BADLANDS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE

ESCAPEES WILL BE SHOT ON SIGHT

I GET HIM?

YOU GOT HIM.

I WISH THE INMATES STILL TRIED TO ESCAPE.

USED TO GET A RUNNER OUT IN THE ***BONE OCEAN*** THREE, FOUR TIMES A WEEK.

HEY, FRANK– YOU...?

DO YOU ***SEE*** THAT? OUT THERE ON THE HORIZON?

NOBODY'S EVEN ***TRIED*** SINCE ***HE*** TOOK OVER.

WHEN THEY MOVED HIM HERE, I GAVE HIM A ***WEEK.***

"THAT WAS ***SEVEN YEARS*** AGO.

"NOW ***ALL*** THE GANGS...

"THE SKULLS, THE TONGS, THE DIABLOS...

"NOBODY LIGHTS A CIGARETTE WITHOUT HIS SAY-SO."

"FRANK?"
"THEY THINK HE'S IMMORTAL. I THINK THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT."
"FRANK, I THINK SOMETHING'S COMING."
I AM SO...
...SO...
...SO SORRY.

"FRANK?"

"THEY THINK HE'S ***IMMORTAL.*** I THINK THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT."

"FRANK, I THINK SOMETHING'S ***COMING.***"

I AM SO...

...SO...

...SO SORRY.

TWO MORE. COME ON.

...PFFH

AND NOT JUST SORRY 'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME.

I AM ***GENUINELY*** SORRY.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU ***RAN*** A CARD HUSTLE.

"FRANK?"

"THEY THINK HE'S ***IMMORTAL.*** I THINK THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT."

"FRANK, I THINK SOMETHING'S ***COMING.***"

I AM SO...

...SO...

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TWO MORE. COME ON.

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AND NOT JUST SORRY 'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME.

I AM ***GENUINELY*** SORRY.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU ***RAN*** A CARD HUSTLE.

BUT NOW I KNOW. NO MORE CARDS. CARDS ARE YOUR THING.

...PFFH

LAST ONE.

GET AFTER IT.

AND I ALSO KNOW YOU DO... ***TERRIBLE*** THINGS TO GUYS WHO CROSS YOU. AND I DON'T WANNA BE ONE OF THOSE GUYS.

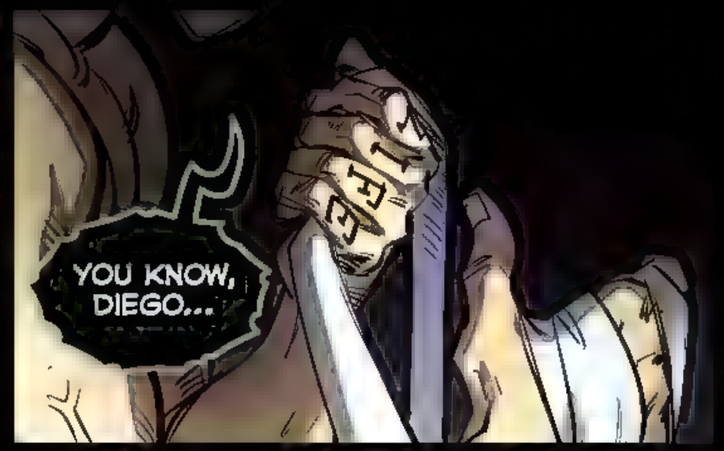
WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE.

APOLOGIZIN'.

...PFFH

RACK IT, T-BONE.

YOU KNOW, DIEGO...


YOU KNOW, DIEGO...

...THEY SAY PAIN IS WEAKNESS LEAVING THE BODY...

YOU KNOW, DIEGO...
...THEY SAY PAIN IS WEAKNESS LEAVING THE BODY...
...BUT IT'S REALLY MORE LIKE AGONY *ENTERING* IT.
LIFE

YOU KNOW, DIEGO...

...THEY SAY PAIN IS WEAKNESS LEAVING THE BODY...

...BUT IT'S REALLY MORE LIKE AGONY *ENTERING* IT.

HERE.

LET ME SHOW YOU.

ABRAKADABRA

PART SEVEN: THE DAYS HAVE WORN AWAY

PLEASE. MERASMUS.
DON'T DO ANY... MAGIC ON ME.
OH, DON'T WORRY, DIEGO...

PLEASE. MERASMUS.

DON'T DO ANY... MAGIC ON ME.

OH, DON'T WORRY, DIEGO...

...I WOULDN'T WASTE GOOD MAGIC ON YOU.

:KKGH: :GHFFH:

PLEASE. MERASMUS.

DON'T DO ANY... MAGIC ON ME.

OH, DON'T WORRY, DIEGO...

...I WOULDN'T WASTE GOOD MAGIC ON YOU.

:KKGH: :GHFFH:

CHKK

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DON'T DO ANY... MAGIC ON ME.

OH, DON'T WORRY, DIEGO...

...I WOULDN'T WASTE GOOD MAGIC ON YOU.

:KKGH: :GHFFH:

CHKK

HELLO, CONVICTS. IS THERE A SHRIVELLED UP OLD MUMMY IN THIS PRISON?

SOLDIER!?

OH, HI, MERASMUS.

BUT– BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE ARE BREAKING YOU OUT.

YOU– I– AND *WHO* ARE YOU?

MERASMUS, MEET MY *NEW* ROOMMATE!

I AM HIS WIFE.

BUT WE ARE ALSO ROOMMATES.

YOU'VE BEEN REPLACED, MERASMUS! HURTS, DOESN'T IT? I BET YOU'D LIKE TO KILL HER.

KILL ME? I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.

I THINK WE'D ALL LIKE TO SEE THAT, HONEY.

LISTEN TO ZHANNA, MAGICAL MAN.
I WILL PULL RABBIT OUT OF YOUR ASS WITH MY FOOT.
MY FOOT WILL ALSO BE UP RABBIT'S ASS.

LISTEN TO ZHANNA, MAGICAL MAN.

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HEY.

NO ONE TOUCHES THE BIG GUY.

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NECK SN–

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NFF

YOU CAN DO IT, HONEY.

LISTEN TO ZHANNA, MAGICAL MAN.

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MY FOOT WILL ALSO BE UP RABBIT'S ASS.

HEY.

NO ONE TOUCHES THE BIG GUY.

LET'S ALL JUST–

NECK SN-

NFF

YOU CAN DO IT, HONEY.

-AP!

T-BONE!
WE'RE BUSTING YOU OUT, MERASMUS.

T-BONE!

WE'RE BUSTING YOU OUT, MERASMUS.

BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

I'M IN. MY WIFE IS IN.

BUT SON...

...WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

T-BONE!

WE'RE BUSTING YOU OUT, MERASMUS.

BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

I'M IN. MY WIFE IS IN.

BUT SON...

...WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

SOLDIER, I...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

YOU WANT ME TO JOIN *TEAM FORTRESS?*

WHAT? NO, THAT'S STUPID.

WE NEED BABYSITTER.

GENERAL PATTON DOE...

GEORGIA WASHINGTON DOE...

I WANT YOU BOTH TO MEET YOUR *UNCLE MERASMUS.*

THOSE ARE...

GENERAL PATTON DOE...

GEORGIA WASHINGTON DOE...

I WANT YOU BOTH TO MEET YOUR *UNCLE MERASMUS.*

THOSE ARE...

...THE FILTHIEST CHILDREN I HAVE EVER SEEN.

WELL, DON'T START HANDING OUT AWARDS YET. BECAUSE I AM ABOUT TO USE YOUR TOILET.

ALL OF US ARE. ONCE I GO THE KIDS GET JEALOUS.

ZHANNA, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS THING AROUND MY ASS.

PRISON'S BEEN GOOD TO YOU, MERASMUS. IT'S A SHAME YOU'RE LEAVING.

I'M *NOT* LEAVING, SOLDIER! I HAVE A *HOME* HERE! PEOPLE *RESPECT* ME!

REALLY? WHY?

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FINISH...

...TOILETING, AND *GET OUT* OF MY PRISON!

WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, MERASMUS. NOT WITHOUT YOU.

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WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, MERASMUS. NOT WITHOUT YOU.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE *WRONG,* SOLDIER!

LISTEN! THE *GUARDS* ARE COMING FOR YOU!

SMASH FOOM SKSH PAFF AGGHHH

CREEEEAKKK SKKTTCHHH PUNCH PUNCH PUNCH SMASH

THOSE AREN'T GUARDS.

THAT'S THE KOREAN MAFIA. THEY WERE RIGHT BEHIND US.

WHAT? WHY ARE THE KOREAN MAFIA AFTER YOU?

THEY'RE NOT. THEY'RE AFTER *YOU*, MERASMUS.

WHAT ON EARTH *FOR?*

WELL...

IT STARTED WHEN I BORROWED A *LOT* OF MONEY FROM THE KOREAN MAFIA AND TOLD THEM I WAS YOU.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING: *WHY* WOULD I NEED A LOT OF MONEY?

TO *ANSWER* THAT QUESTION I WILL NEED TO *ASK* YOU A QUESTION:

OKAY...

HAVE I TOLD YOU...

...THAT YOU OWE A *LOT* OF MONEY TO THE KOREAN MAFIA?

YES!
AND THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!
CRAP. WE SHOULD REALLY BE ESCAPING RIGHT NOW.
EVERYONE! BACK INTO THE HOLE!

YES!

AND THEY'RE GETTING *CLOSER!*

CRAP. WE SHOULD REALLY BE ESCAPING RIGHT NOW.

EVERYONE! BACK INTO THE HOLE!

...AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED TELLING MERASMUS THIS STORY.

I'D BETTER DOUBLE TIME IT. WE'RE NOT EVEN AT THE START YET.

OUR STORY BEGINS–

JAN

FEB

NOV

OCT

APR

JUN

ABRA KADABRA

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OUR STORY BEGINS–

...NO, WAIT. THAT'S THE MIDDLE.

MERASMUS, I FEEL LIKE I'M CONFUSING YOU BY TRYING TO RACE THROUGH THIS, SO I'M GOING TO SLOW DOWN.

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OUR STORY– ARE YOU GETTING THIS

SOLDIER!

"JUST TELL ME THE *END* OF THE STORY."

YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW WE BEAT YOU?

LOOK AT US ALL STANDING AROUND HERE, CHUMMING IT UP LIKE A BUNCH OF SCHOOLKIDS.

WE ARE WATCHING A MAN DIE.

LIKE A BUNCH OF SILLY SCHOOLKIDS.

I AM GOING TO GET ZHANNA PREGNANT.

YES, YOU HAVE MENTIONED IT.

YES, BUT NOT RECENTLY.

YES, RECENTLY. MULTIPLE TIMES IN LAST SEVERAL HOURS.

MAYBE IT WAS JUST LUCK. MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU. BUT EITHER WAY...

WE'RE TEAM FORTRESS

ANYWAY, I AM GOING TO GET HER PREGNANT.

YES.

I AM ON MY KNEE, ASKING YOU FOR YOUR SISTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.
NO.

I AM ON MY KNEE, ASKING YOU FOR YOUR SISTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.

NO.

ALRIGHT. WELL, I TRIED.

ZHANNA, YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?

YES.

I AM ON MY KNEE, ASKING YOU FOR YOUR SISTER'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.

NO.

ALRIGHT. WELL, I TRIED.

ZHANNA, YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?

YES.

ZHANNA. THIS MAN CANNOT SUPPORT YOU.

WE DO NOT EVEN *PAY* THIS MAN. HE LIVES IN A CAVE.

HOLD ON, HONEY, WE MIGHT NEED TO TABLE THIS IMPREGNATION.

UGH. FINE.

WHY DOES EVERYONE THINK I HAVE NO MONEY?

BECAUSE YOU LIVE IN CAVE.

LINED WITH GOLD!

I ONLY LIVE IN THE CAVE SO NO ONE STEALS IT.

AND ***NOW*** I DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND MY VAST CAVE FORTUNE ***ALONE.*** SHE HAS MARRIED INTO DEFENDING THE CAVE!

IT'S *OUR* CAVE NOW! WE CAN SLEEP IN SHIFTS! IT WILL BE HEAVEN!

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THIS IS...

NOT GOLD.

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THIS IS...

NOT GOLD.

SNATCH

SOLDIER, WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
IN MY CAVE! THERE'S TONS OF IT! THE RACCOONS WON'T TOUCH THE STUFF.

YOU GUYS: WE DID IT. NOT THE WAY WE PLANNED, BUT WE DID IT.
SOLDIER'S CAVE HAS ENOUGH AUSTRALIUM FOR CENTURIES!

SOLDIER, WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?

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WE COULD SELL IT AND-

EXACTLY. WE COULD BRING IT BACK TO THE *ADMINISTRATOR!*

I'LL GET A *PROMOTION!*

I COULD BE HER *SECOND IN COMMAND!*

COME ON, EVERYBODY IN THE PLANE!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

COME ON, EVERYBODY IN THE PLANE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I WAS JUST TELLING MISS PAULING ABOUT THE AUSTRALIUM–

COME ON, EVERYBODY IN THE PLANE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I WAS JUST TELLING MISS PAULING ABOUT THE AUSTRALIUM–

AND HOW IT'S GONE! IT'S *ALLLLLL* GONE! THERE IS NO MORE!

SO WE'RE ALL...

...WE'RE ALL GOING HOME.

COME ON, EVERYBODY IN THE PLANE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I WAS JUST TELLING MISS PAULING ABOUT THE AUSTRALIUM–

AND HOW IT'S GONE! IT'S *ALLLLLLL* GONE! THERE IS NO MORE!

SO WE'RE ALL...

...WE'RE ALL GOING HOME.

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO, MAGS...
YOU THINKIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN', SAX?

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO, MAGS...

YOU THINKIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN', SAX?

YOU KNOW IT. LET'S GO ***GET MANN CO BACK.***

I'VE GOT A ***PLAN,*** MAGS.

I COULDN'T BEAT UP A LITTLE GIRL TO GET MY COMPANY BACK.

BUT THAT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A ***SECRET WEAPON...***

THIS LITTLE GIRL WE MET AT AYERS ROCK!

HEY!

SHE MIGHT NOT BE A MATCH FOR OLIVIA MANN ***YET!***

BUT ***YOU'RE*** GONNA ***TRAIN*** HER, MAGS! EVEN IF IT ***KILLS*** HER! EVEN IF–

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BUT ***YOU'RE*** GONNA ***TRAIN*** HER, MAGS! EVEN IF IT ***KILLS*** HER! EVEN IF—

MAGS?

SHE LEFT, MISTER HALE.

WHAT? WHEN?
LIKE FIVE SECONDS AGO. WHILE YOU WERE YELLIN' AT ME.

WHAT? WHEN?

LIKE FIVE SECONDS AGO. WHILE YOU WERE YELLIN' AT ME.

FINE! I'LL GET MY COMPANY BACK WITHOUT HER!

JERRY! WHOSE PLANE IS THAT?

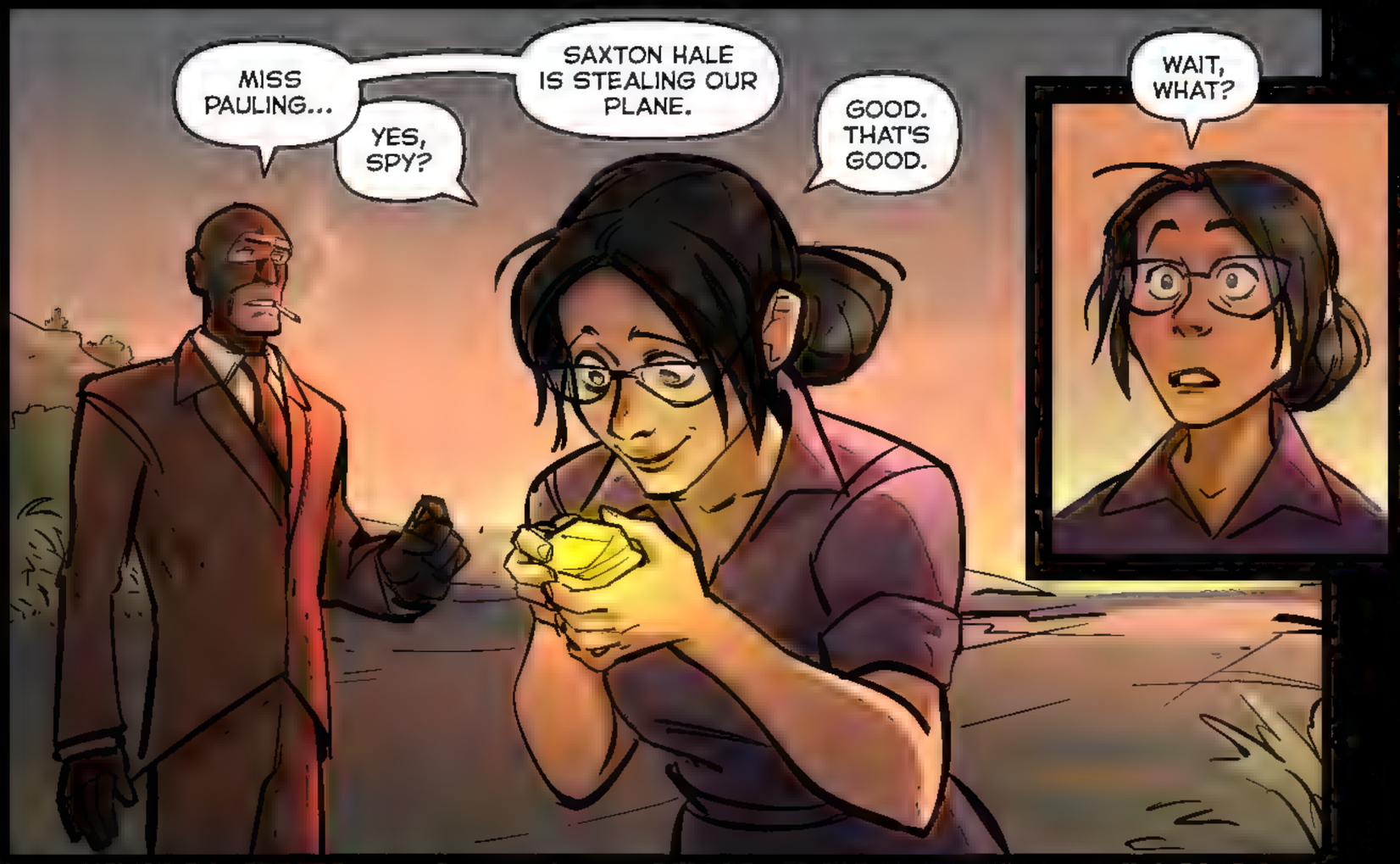
NO IDEA, SIR. LOOKS EMPTY.

WELL, WE KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE TODAY, JERRY. PROBABLY ONE OF THEIRS.

FIRE IT UP! WE'RE HEADING TO MANN CO!

COME ON, FISTS, WE'VE GOT A PLANE TO CATCH AND THEN CRASH.

MISS PAULING...
YES, SPY?
SAXTON HALE IS STEALING OUR PLANE.
GOOD. THAT'S GOOD.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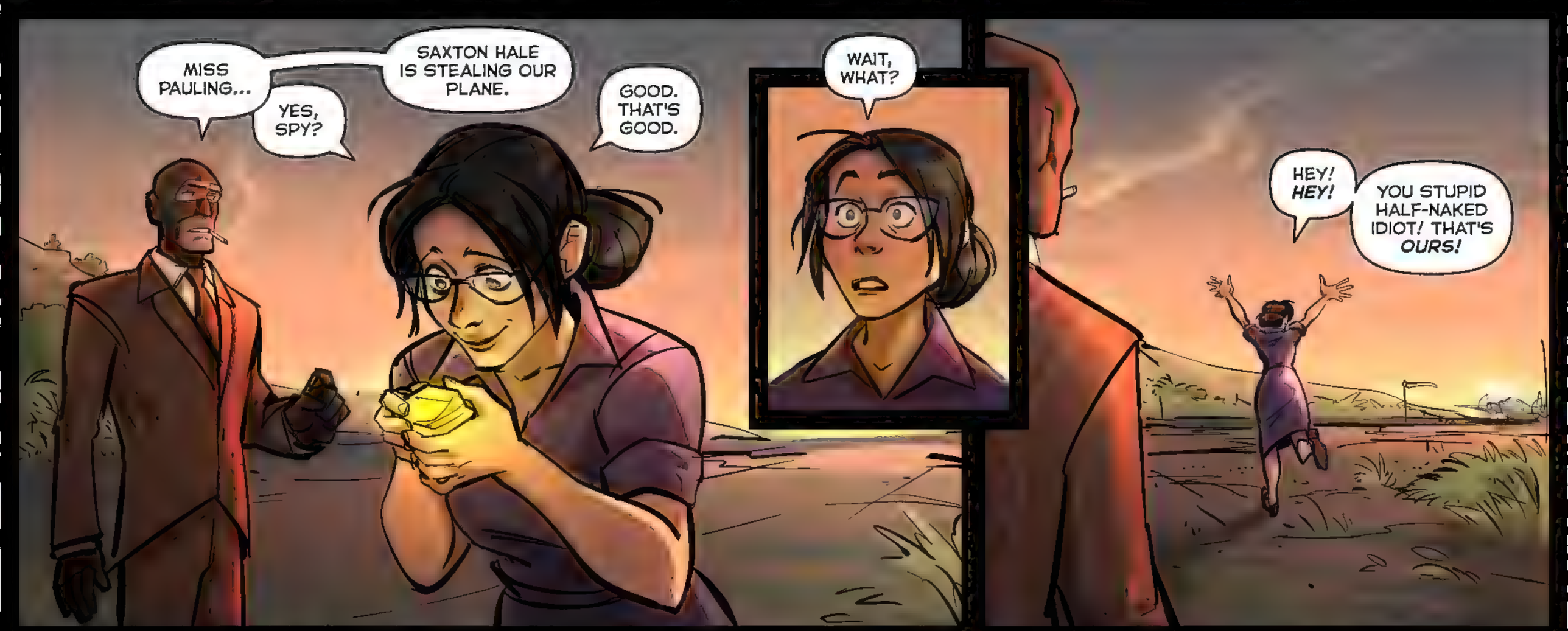
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WAIT, WHAT?
HEY! HEY!
YOU STUPID HALF-NAKED IDIOT! THAT'S OURS!

MISS PAULING...

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GOOD. THAT'S GOOD.

WAIT, WHAT?

HEY! *HEY!*

YOU STUPID HALF-NAKED IDIOT! THAT'S *OURS!*

THERE'S A HYSTERICAL WOMAN SCREAMING AT US FROM THE TARMAC, SIR.

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YOU STUPID HALF-NAKED IDIOT! THAT'S *OURS!*

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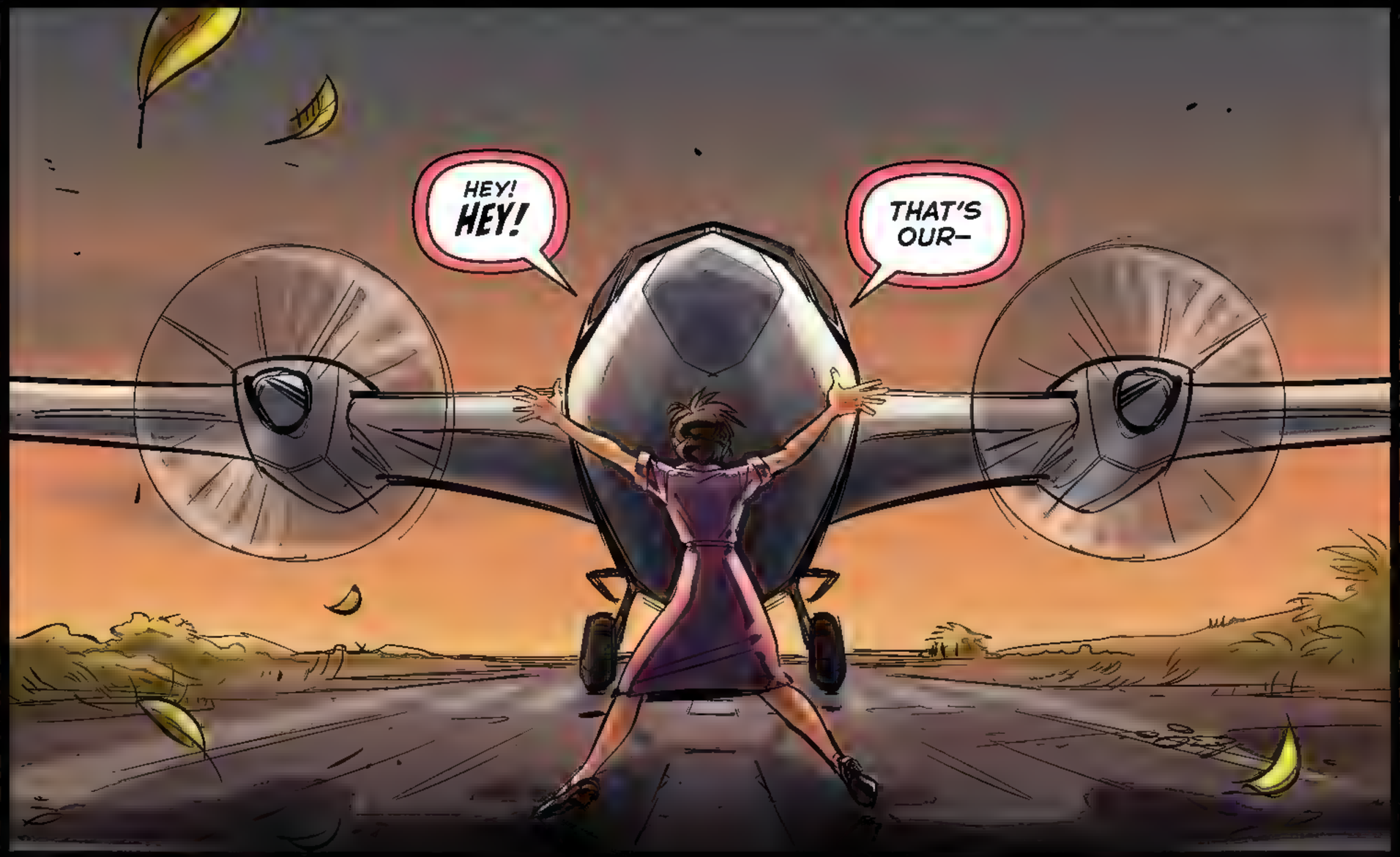
HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE.

ALRIGHT, MY TURN. I SEE... THERE. THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A *TIGER!*


HEY!
HEY!
THAT'S OUR–

HEY!
HEY!

THAT'S
OUR–

YRRROOOOM

THAT–

THAT–

THAT *AUSTRALIAN* TOOK OUR PLANE!

ANYTHING THAT'S NOT NAILED DOWN, YES. IT'S IN THEIR DNA, I BELIEVE.

NOW WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GONNA DO?

WE'RE STUCK HERE.

WELL, NOT NECESSARILY...

THAT–

THAT–

THAT *AUSTRALIAN* TOOK OUR PLANE!

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NOW WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GONNA DO?

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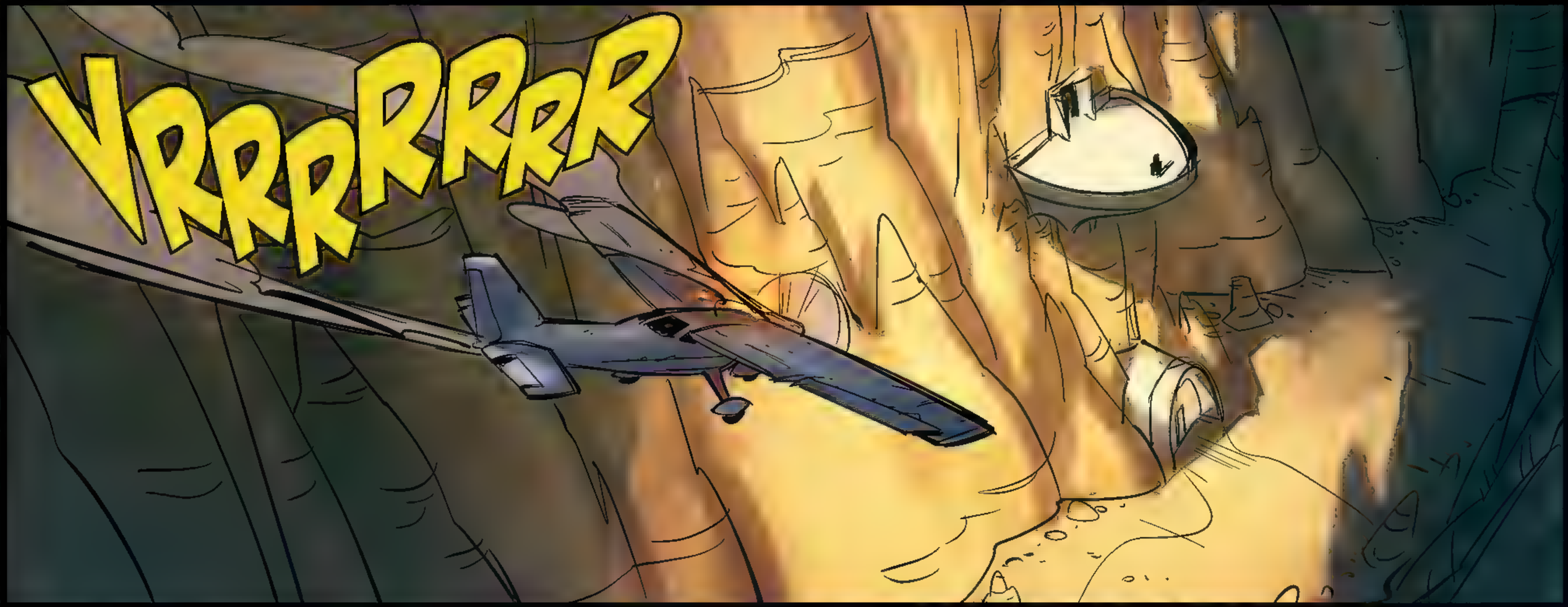
WELL, NOT NECESSARILY...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SNIPER?

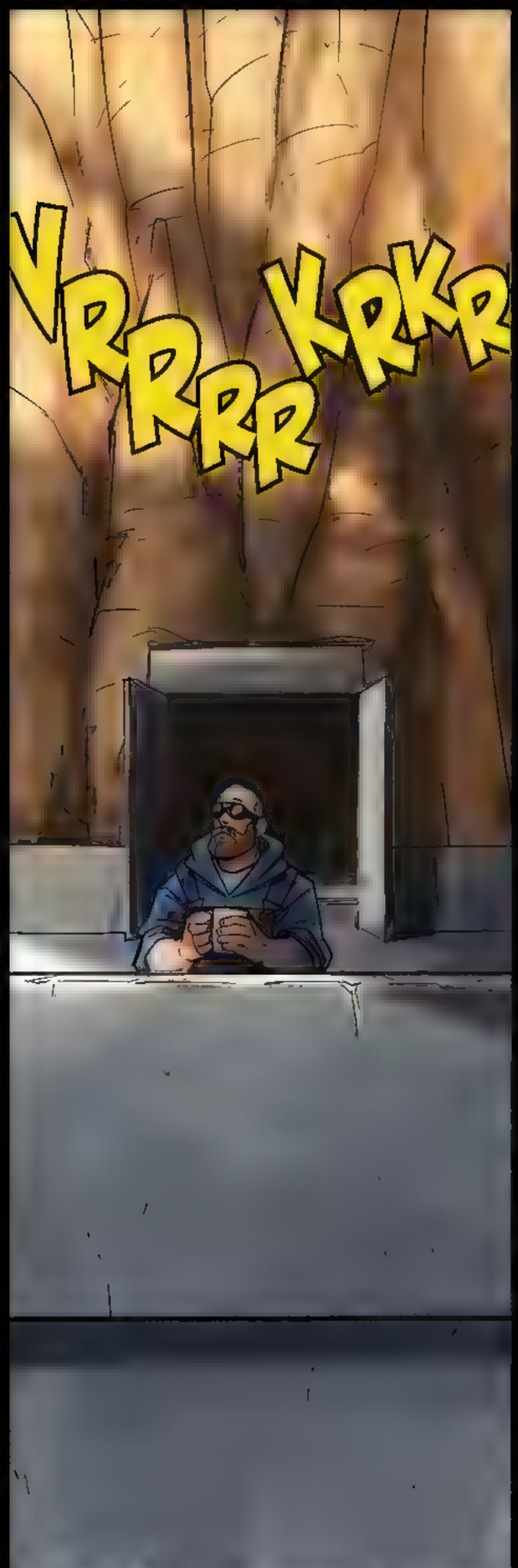
CAN YOU FLY IT?

DO NOT USE

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT: LET'S STEAL IT.


VRRRRRRR

VRRRRR
KRKR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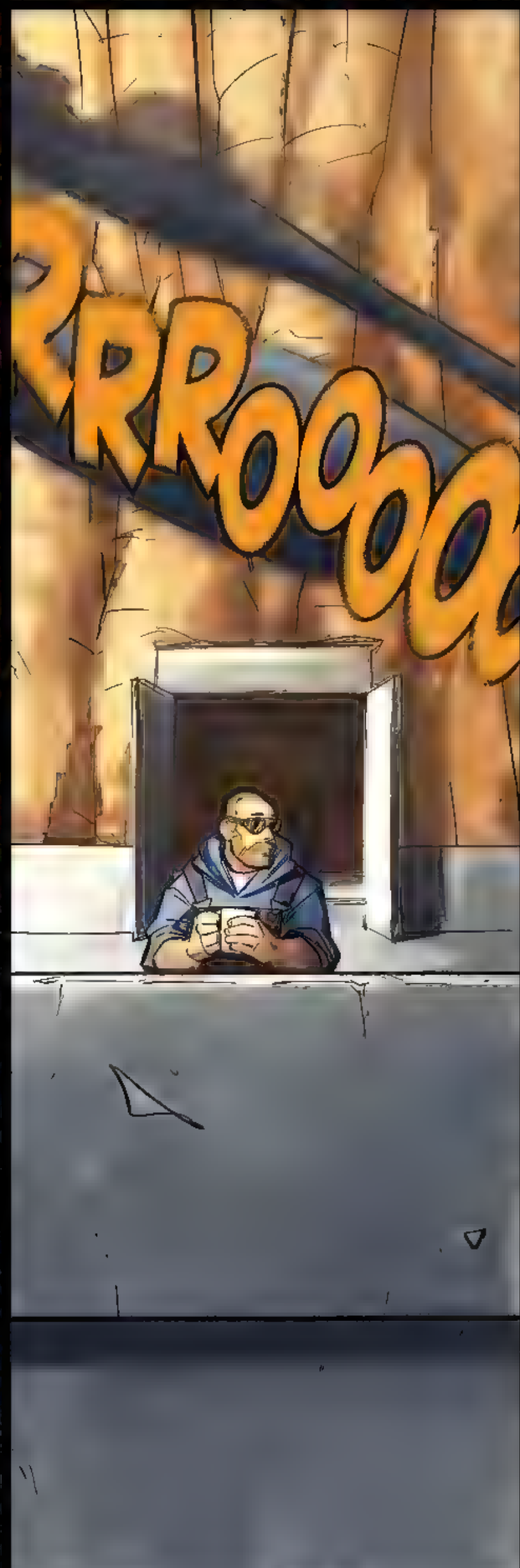
RRROOOOO

VRRRRKRKR
RRROOOOO
KRASH
SIP

VRRRRR KRKR
RRROOOOO
KRASH
SIP

I DON'T SEE YOU ON THE LIST.
COULD YOU *SPELL* THAT?

I DON'T SEE YOU ON THE LIST.

COULD YOU *SPELL* THAT?

F...O...R...T...

LOOK, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WE NEED TO SEE THE ADMINISTRATOR.

ABOUT THIS.
KLNK

ABOUT *THIS.*

KLNK

ABOUT *THIS.*

KLNK

OK, THIS ISN'T A PAWN SHOP.

I CAN'T LET YOU PAST THIS DESK.

IN FACT, YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THE LOBBY. YOU NEED TO–

MISS KRAUTHAMMER! IT'S ALRIGHT!

THEY'RE WITH ME!

FELLAHS! IT'S BEEN A DOG'S AGE! GET UP HERE!

A

B

C

D

F

"I GOTTA TELL YA, YOU HAVE CREATED A REAL...
"...A REAL PROBLEM HERE, FLO."
BREAK ROOM

"I GOTTA TELL YA, YOU HAVE CREATED A REAL...

"...A REAL PROBLEM HERE, FLO."

BREAK ROOM

"I FOLLOWED MY ORDERS, ENGIE."

"I KNOW, I KNOW..."

"I JUST NEVER THOUGHT...

"...YOU'D ACTUALLY FIND *MORE.*"

"I GOTTA TELL YA, YOU HAVE CREATED A REAL...

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"I FOLLOWED MY ORDERS, ENGIE."

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"I JUST NEVER THOUGHT...

"...YOU'D ACTUALLY FIND *MORE*."

"*NOBODY* DID, THOUGH. *DID* THEY?

"NOT ANY OF THE 'GOOD' TEAMS, NOT THE ADMINISTRATOR...

"NOT EVEN YOU."

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"NOT EVEN YOU."

"EVERYBODY JUST THOUGHT WE'D SCREW IT ALL UP, DIDN'T THEY?

"CREATE A DISTRACTION. LET THE REAL MERCS SAVE THE DAY.

"WELL, *WE* DID IT."

I'VE DEVOTED MY WHOLE LIFE TO THIS.

TO WHATEVER GRAND PLAN SHE HAD.

OR WHATEVER *EVIL* PLAN, WHO CARES. BUT SHE'D *GET* THERE.

AND I'D BE *RIGHT THERE WITH HER.*

I WANT TO SEE HER, ENGIE.

ALRIGHT.

DOWN THE HALL.

LAST DOOR ON THE LEFT.

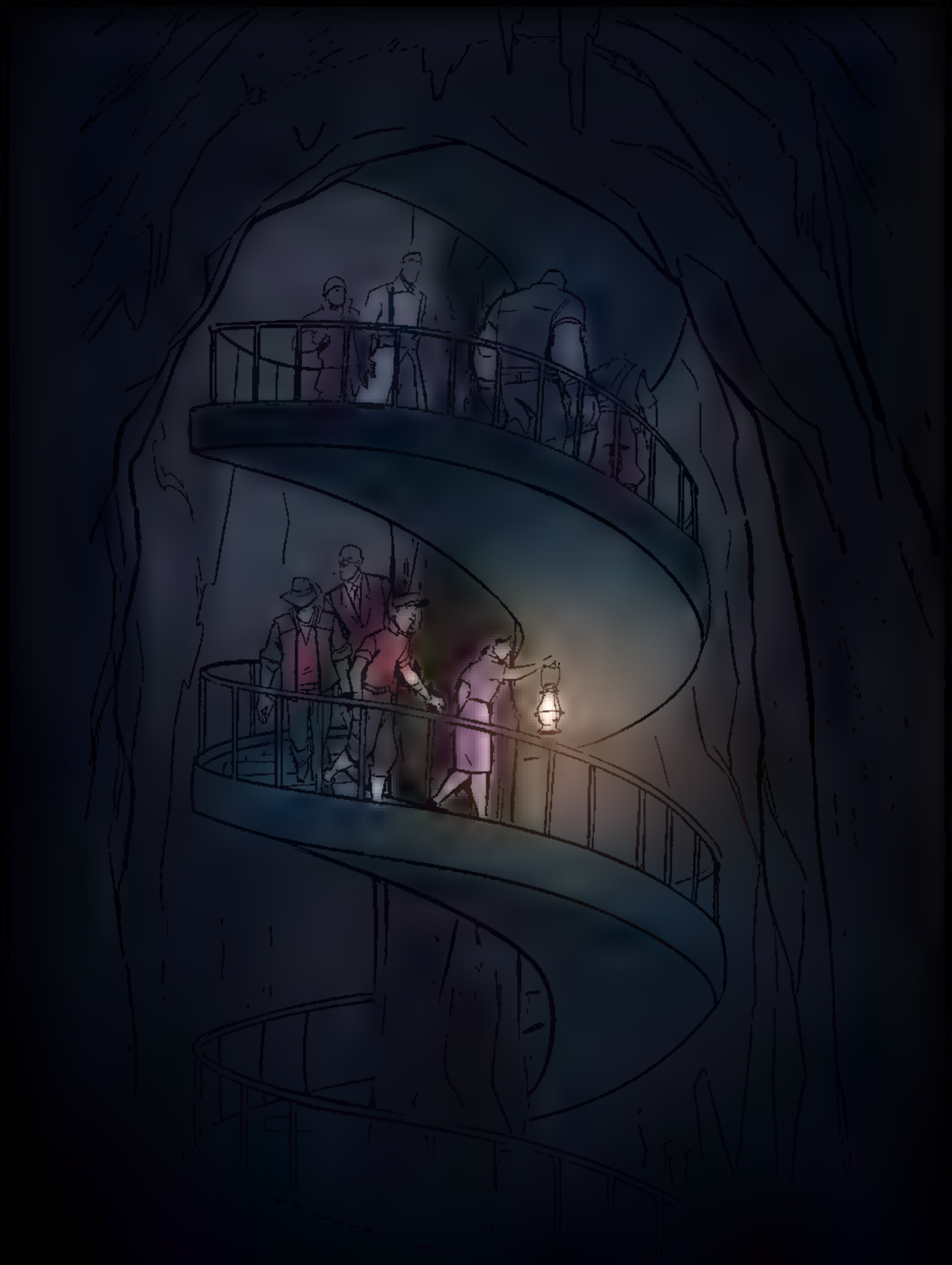
YOU'RE NOT COMING?

MY GRANDFATHER NEVER WENT DOWN THERE.

MY FATHER NEVER WENT DOWN THERE.

"I FIGURE THEY HAD A *REASON.*

"Y'ALL GO AHEAD."



HEY, MISS PAULING?

THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE DOWN HERE. SO I...

I...

I NEED TO SAY SOMETHIN'.

OKAY.

SHOOT.

WHEN I WAS TALKIN' TO YOU BACK IN SIBERIA–
WELL, NOT YOU, A MINIATURE FAIRY VERSION OF YOU–
YOU TOLD ME NEVER TO GIVE UP.

WHEN I WAS TALKIN' TO YOU BACK IN SIBERIA–
WELL, NOT YOU, A MINIATURE FAIRY VERSION OF YOU–
YOU TOLD ME NEVER TO GIVE UP.
TO JUST KEEP PERSEVERIN' AND WEARIN' YOU DOWN LIKE DROPS OF WATER BORIN' THROUGH STONE...
UNTIL I GOT TO WHEREVER YOUR HEART IS AND MADE YOU REALIZE YOU LOVE ME.

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AND I BEEN THINKIN'–

MAYBE YOU WERE WRONG.

NO OFFENSE.

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AND I BEEN THINKIN'–

MAYBE YOU WERE WRONG.

NO OFFENSE.

WHEN WE WERE ON THE PLANE JUST NOW– I WAS LOOKIN' DOWN AT THAT TINY WORLD OUT THERE, AND IT HIT ME...

THERE'S LIKE EIGHTY MILLION WOMEN IN THE WORLD, PROBABLY, AND...

WHEN I WAS TALKIN' TO YOU BACK IN SIBERIA–

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THERE'S LIKE EIGHTY MILLION WOMEN IN THE WORLD, PROBABLY, AND...

...AND THERE'S GOTTA BE ***ONE*** OF EM I DON'T GOTTA WEAR DOWN.

NO CONVINCIN', NO GUN SHOW– JUST, ***BOOM.***

"I GET IT, DUMMY. YOU'RE THE BEST."

WHEN I WAS TALKIN' TO YOU BACK IN SIBERIA–

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"I GET IT, DUMMY. YOU'RE THE BEST."

SO YEAH, I JUST WANTED TO...

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT.

THAT I'M MOVIN' ON.

YOU KNOW WHAT, SCOUT?
THOSE EIGHTY MILLION OTHER WOMEN IN THE WORLD, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING...

YOU KNOW WHAT, SCOUT?

THOSE EIGHTY MILLION OTHER WOMEN IN THE WORLD, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING...

A LOT OF THEM ARE PROBABLY *WAY* HOTTER THAN ME.

WHOA, REALLY?

YOU KNOW WHAT, SCOUT?

THOSE EIGHTY MILLION OTHER WOMEN IN THE WORLD, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING...

A LOT OF THEM ARE PROBABLY *WAY* HOTTER THAN ME.

WHOA, REALLY?

IT'S MATH, DUMMY.

YEAH, IT IS.

DAP

ALRIGHT, WE'RE HERE.

ALRIGHT, WE'RE HERE.

ALRIGHT, WE'RE HERE.

ALRIGHT, WE'RE HERE.

WE GOIN' IN?

YEAH, JUST...
AFTER ALL THIS...

YEAH, JUST...

AFTER ALL THIS...

MAYBE ENGIE'S RIGHT.

MAYBE I *DON'T* WANT TO SEE THIS.

YEAH, JUST...

AFTER ALL THIS...

MAYBE ENGIE'S RIGHT.

MAYBE I *DON'T* WANT TO SEE THIS.

NO.

LET'S FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHAT'S BACK HERE.

KLIK

YEAH, JUST...

AFTER ALL THIS...

MAYBE ENGIE'S RIGHT.

MAYBE I *DON'T* WANT TO SEE THIS.

NO.

LET'S FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHAT'S BACK HERE.

KLIK

"SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING."

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M HERE ABOUT THE JOB.

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M HERE ABOUT THE JOB.

THAT CAN'T–

HOW DID–

I WAS JUST HEADING TO THE NEWSPAPER TO PURCHASE AN AD FOR THE POSITION.

WELL. A STROKE OF LUCK FOR BOTH OF US, THEN.

NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

PLEASE GO GET THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE.

THE LADY OF THE HOUSE DIED RECENTLY, YOU SEE.

WE'RE IN NEED OF–

A GOVERNESS, YES, THANK YOU, I'M ALL CAUGHT UP.

PLEASE GO GET THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE.

"DEAR THE MAYOR OF PARIS."

"MY NAME IS ZEPHENIAH MANN. YOU WILL REMEMBER I PURCHASED RODIN'S THE THINKER FROM YOU."

"I HAVE BEEN CHISELING ITS FACE TO MATCH **MY** FACE, BUT NOW THE HEAD IS TOO SMALL AND MISSHAPEN."

"IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'M THINKING ANYMORE. IT JUST LOOKS LIKE I'M ON THE TOILET AND SCARED."

MEADOWES, I DO LOOK SCARED TO BE ON THE TOILET, DON'T I?
TERRIFIED, SIR.
MISTER MANN?
SIR?

MEADOWES, I DO LOOK SCARED TO BE ON THE TOILET, DON'T I?

TERRIFIED, SIR.

MISTER MANN?

SIR?

"I HAVE ENCLOSED ANOTHER CHECK. SEND ANOTHER STATUE WITH A NORMAL SIZED BODY BUT A VERY LARGE HEAD, ASAP."

SIR?

MEADOWES, I DO LOOK SCARED TO BE ON THE TOILET, DON'T I?

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"I HAVE ENCLOSED ANOTHER CHECK. SEND ANOTHER STATUE WITH A NORMAL SIZED BODY BUT A VERY LARGE HEAD, ASAP."

SIR?

"YOURS IN ETC ETC, ZEPHANIAH MANN–"

WHAT IS IT?

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SIR?

"YOURS IN ETC ETC, ZEPHANIAH MANN–"

WHAT IS IT?

THERE– THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR FOR YOU, SIR.

MEADOWES, I DO LOOK SCARED TO BE ON THE TOILET, DON'T I?

TERRIFIED, SIR.

MISTER MANN?

SIR?

"I HAVE ENCLOSED ANOTHER CHECK. SEND ANOTHER STATUE WITH A NORMAL SIZED BODY BUT A VERY LARGE HEAD, ASAP."

SIR?

"YOURS IN ETC ETC, ZEPHANIAH MANN–"

WHAT IS IT?

THERE– THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR FOR YOU, SIR.

I SEE.

IS IT THAT WOMAN STANDING DIRECTLY BEHIND YOU?

IT IS.
I'M HERE FOR THE GOVERNESS POSITION.

IT IS.

I'M HERE FOR THE GOVERNESS POSITION.

CAPITAL.

LET'S GO FOR A WALK OF THE GROUNDS. IT'S TOO STUFFY IN HERE.

IT IS.

I'M HERE FOR THE GOVERNESS POSITION.

CAPITAL.

LET'S GO FOR A WALK OF THE GROUNDS. IT'S TOO STUFFY IN HERE.

CIGAR?

LET ME ASK YOU ONE QUESTION...

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

HERE LIES AUGUSTUS MANN

LET ME ASK YOU ONE QUESTION...

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

HERE LIES AUGUSTUS MANN

LET ME ASK YOU ONE QUESTION...

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

HERE LIES AUGUSTUS MANN

NO. SHOULD I?

I SUPPOSE NOT.

IF YOU ARE TO TAKE THIS POST, YOU MUST HARDEN YOUR HEART.

I EXPECT UNFLINCHING, ROUND-THE-CLOCK BRUTALITY.

IF THAT MEANS THEY ***HATE*** YOU, SO BE IT.

I SUPPOSE NOT.

IF YOU ARE TO TAKE THIS POST, YOU MUST HARDEN YOUR HEART.

I EXPECT UNFLINCHING, ROUND-THE-CLOCK BRUTALITY.

IF THAT MEANS THEY ***HATE*** YOU, SO BE IT.

I WILL MAKE THEM DESPISE ME.

GOOD. A MANN SCION DOES NOT NEED CODDLING. HE NEEDS ***MOLDING.***

YOU WILL RAISE MY SON TO BE A TITAN OF INDUSTRY. A SELF-MADE MAN. A STUBBORN, BLOODY-MINDED SCOUNDREL.

YOU MUST MAKE HIM INTO ***ME.***

YOU MEAN SONS.

I DO NOT.

THIS WAY.

THE *MANN FAMILY MAUSOLEUM.* NOT THE RIFF-RAFF OUT THERE.

THESE ARE THE CORPSES THAT *PAID* FOR EVERYTHING.

MANN

MANN
THE MANN FAMILY MAUSOLEUM. NOT THE RIFF-RAFF OUT THERE.
THESE ARE THE CORPSES THAT PAID FOR EVERYTHING.
MY GRANDFATHER, EBENEZER MANN. SHIPPING MAGNATE. YOUNGEST OF FIVE SONS.
EVERY BROTHER IN THE GROUND BY THE TIME HE BOUGHT HIS FIRST FLEET.
EZEKIEL MANN

THE *MANN FAMILY MAUSOLEUM.* NOT THE RIFF-RAFF OUT THERE.

THESE ARE THE CORPSES THAT *PAID* FOR EVERYTHING.

MY GRANDFATHER, *EBENEZER MANN.* SHIPPING MAGNATE. YOUNGEST OF FIVE SONS.

EVERY BROTHER IN THE GROUND BY THE TIME HE BOUGHT HIS FIRST FLEET.

MY FATHER, *EZEKIEL MANN.* RAILROAD TYCOON. MIDDLE CHILD. A HOUSE FIRE CLAIMED HIS THREE SISTERS.

HE WEATHERED THE TRAGEDY AND WAS A MILLIONAIRE BEFORE HE TURNED SEVENTEEN.

MANN

EZEKIEL MANN

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ZEPHENIAH MANN. ME. MUNITIONS MAGNATE. ONLY SON, SADLY.

MANN

EZEKIEL MANN

EBE. ZER MANN

ZEPHENIAH MANN

AND MY SON. HEIR TO THE MANN FAMILY FORTUNE.

NAME TO BE DETERMINED.

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

YOU WANT ME TO KILL ONE OF YOUR SONS?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE. I WANT YOU TO TEACH THEM. TRAIN THEM. MOLD THEM BOTH INTO CHAMPIONS.

AND MY SON. HEIR TO THE MANN FAMILY FORTUNE.

NAME TO BE DETERMINED.

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

YOU WANT ME TO KILL ONE OF YOUR SONS?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE. I WANT YOU TO TEACH THEM. TRAIN THEM. MOLD THEM BOTH INTO CHAMPIONS.

UNTIL THEIR HEREDITARY INSTINCTS KICK IN AND THE STRONGER ONE KILLS THE OTHER.

I'LL KNOW YOU SUCCEEDED WHEN WE'VE FILLED THIS IN.

YES.

I CAN DO THIS FOR YOU.

CAPITAL. YOU'RE HIRED. AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.

MY NAME IS–

THAT WAS NOT A QUESTION. I WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THIS PROFESSIONAL.

YOU START IMMEDIATELY.

I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION.

MEADOWES. A LETTER.

YES SIR.

"DEAR BABY BLUTARCH AND BABY REDMOND. I HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU WELL. THE WOMAN STANDING BEFORE YOU–"

"THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.

"I CAN MAKE MY *OWN* INTRODUCTIONS."

I'D COME TO *KILL* THE BOYS, OBVIOUSLY.

SMOTHER THEM IN THEIR SLEEP.

WATCH THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE THE NEXT MORNING WHEN I WALKED YOU INTO THE ROOM.

BUT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE *WORKED,* WOULD IT?

YOU WEREN'T THEIR *FATHER* THEN.

THEY WERE *NOTHING* TO YOU.

SLABS OF STONE IN NEED OF A SCULPTOR'S CHISEL.

THEY WERE *NOTHING* TO YOU.

SLABS OF STONE IN NEED OF A SCULPTOR'S CHISEL.

YOU WERE WAITING FOR YOUR *CHAMPION.*

"SOMEONE *WORTHY* OF YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION."

"YOUR LEGACY."

"YOUR LOVE."

"IF I WANTED TO *DESTROY* YOU..."

"...TO WATCH YOU DIE CURSING MY NAME..."

"I NEEDED TO ENSURE YOUR CHAMPION NEVER EMERGED."

"THE TWO LITTLE NITWITS NEEDED TO FIGHT."

ll to Hell!

"FOREVER."

"...DAMN YOU ALL TO HELL..."

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

ephaniah Mann

"...DAMN YOU ALL TO HELL!"

BETTER. SIGNED...

"...ZEPHENIAH MANN..."

THERE.

I SIGNED THE CONFOUNDED THING!

ELIZABETH!

I'M COMING, ZEPHENIAH.

ELIZABETH! I SIGNED IT!

TEUFORT, NEW MEXICO.

27 YEARS LATER.

WELCOME TO

SALOON AND INN

LET ME SEE IT.

MERCENARIES WELCOME

I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL THIS ***BLU*** AND ***RED*** GRAVEL NONSENSE.

BUT I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH THAT MAKING MY TWO STUMBLE-BUM SONS FIGHT OVER IT WILL FINALLY RESULT IN ONE OF THEM EMERGING VIC–

IT WON'T.

...

WHAT?

I LIED.

ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT EVERYTHING. ALL OF THIS– THE LAND, THE AMERICAS, ALL OF IT.
YOUR SONS ARE GOING TO FIGHT *FOREVER*, ZEPHENIAH.

ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT EVERYTHING. ALL OF THIS– THE LAND, THE AMERICAS, ALL OF IT.

YOUR SONS ARE GOING TO FIGHT *FOREVER*, ZEPHENIAH.

THERE WILL BE NO END TO THIS. YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A WORTHY HEIR.

I *GUARANTEE* IT.

I WILL BE RIGHT HERE.

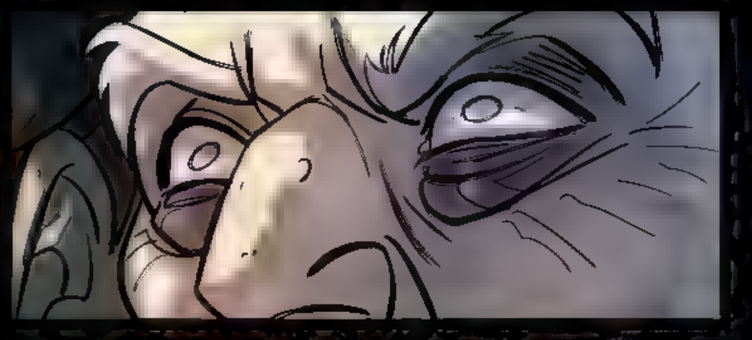
WATCHING THEM FIGHT UNTIL THEY *DIE.*

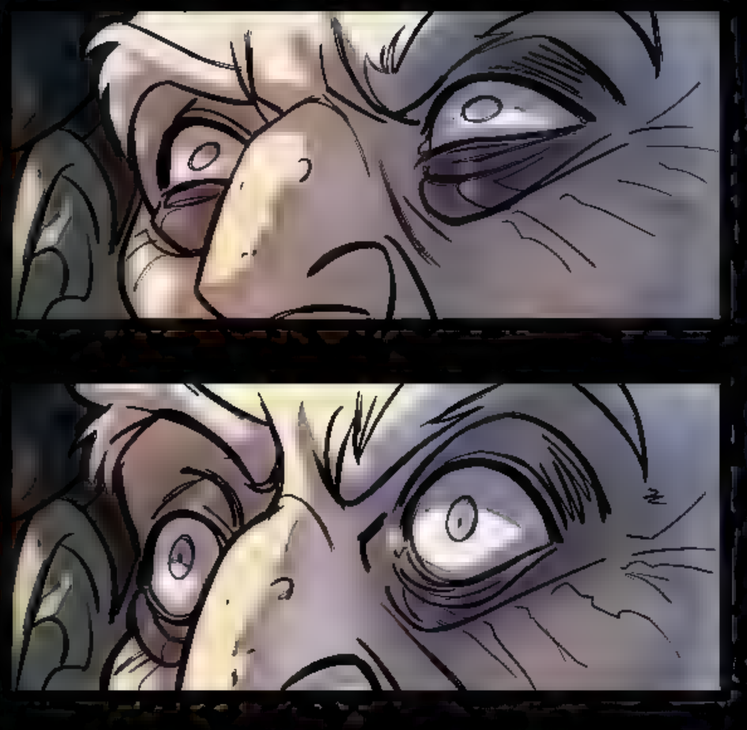
...
BUT WHY?

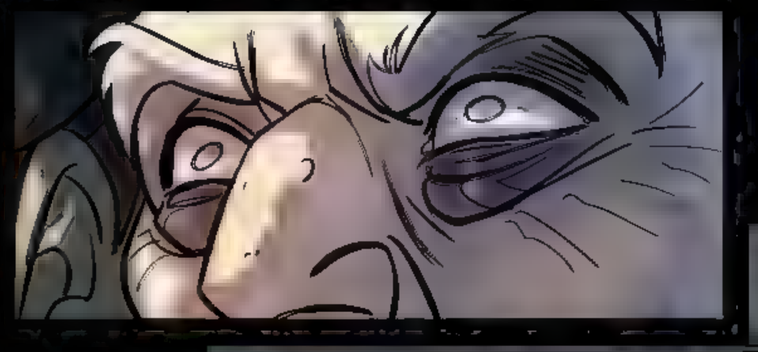
...

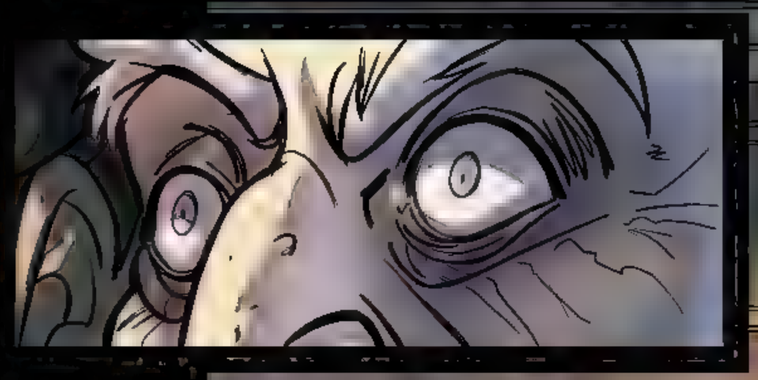
BUT WHY?

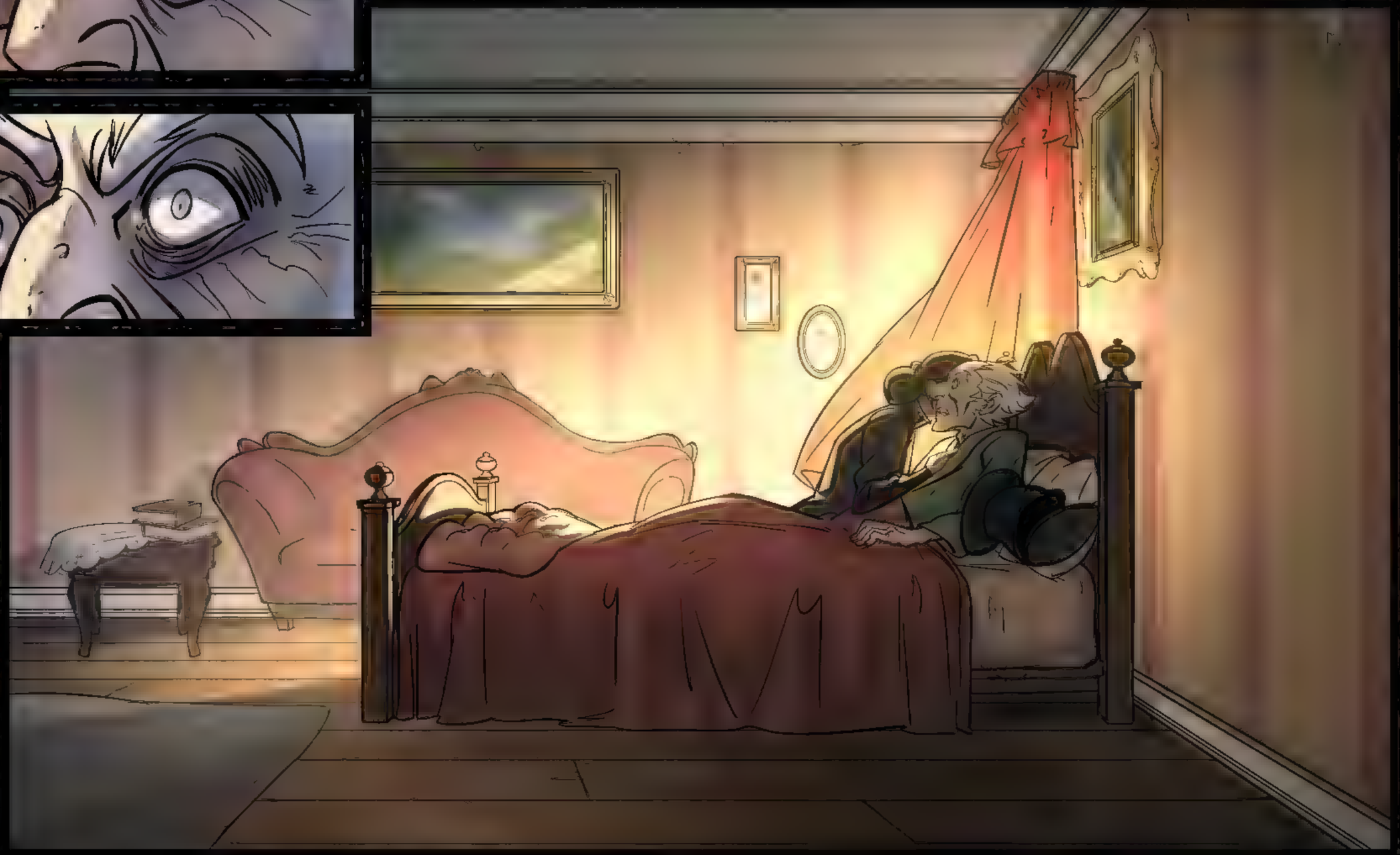
LET ME TELL YOU.

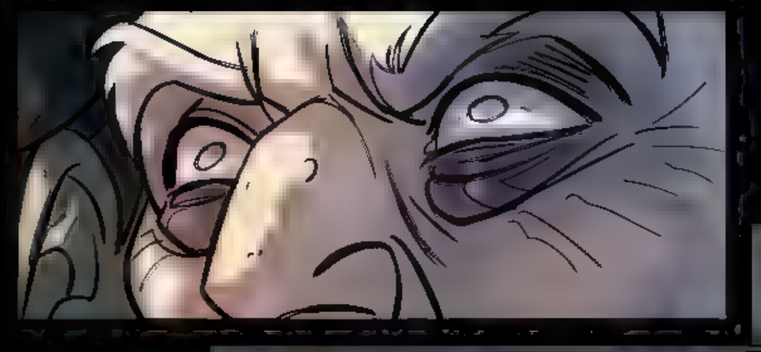


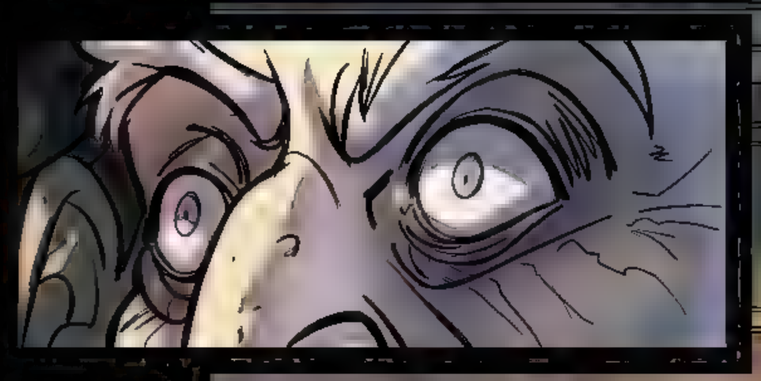


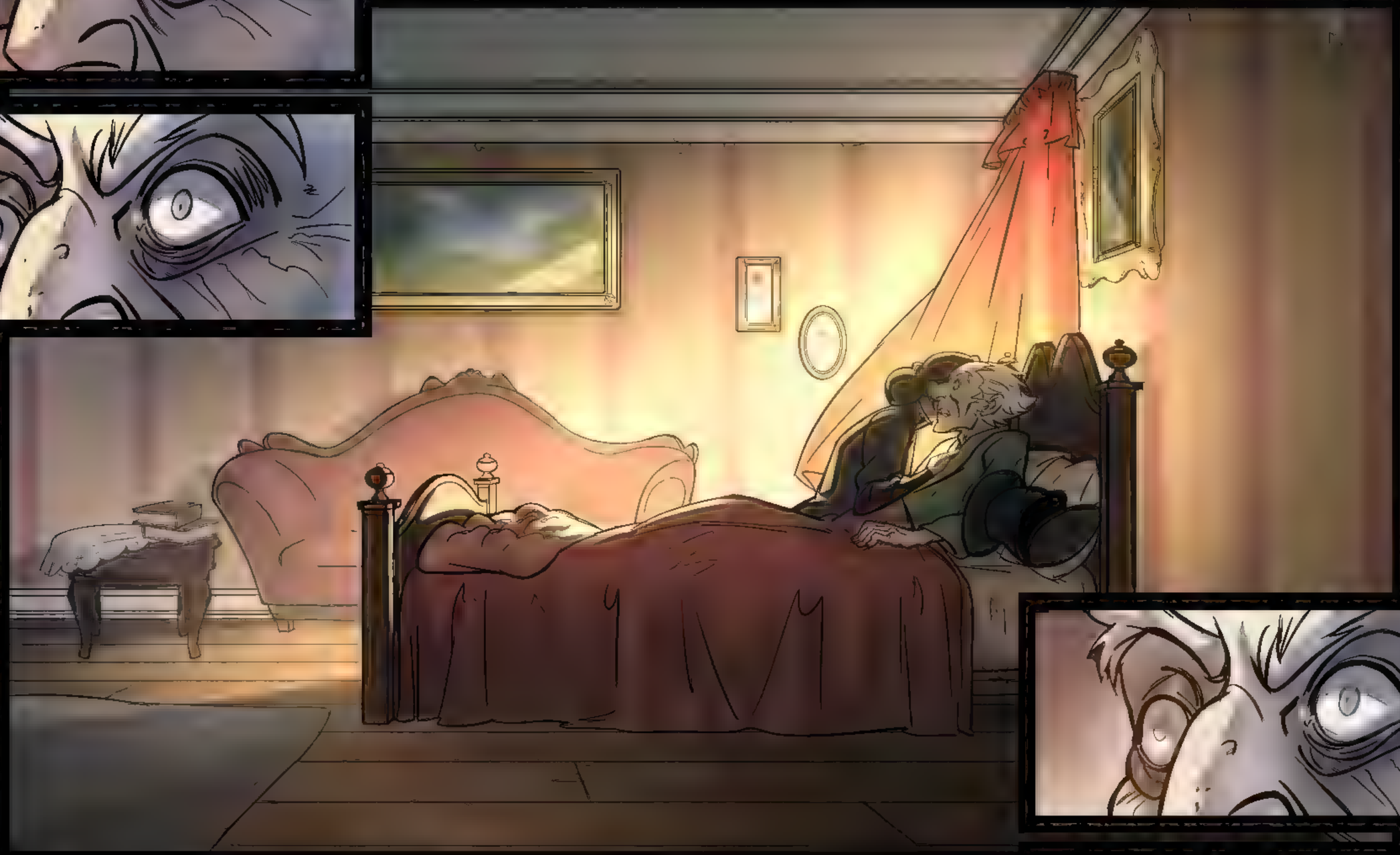


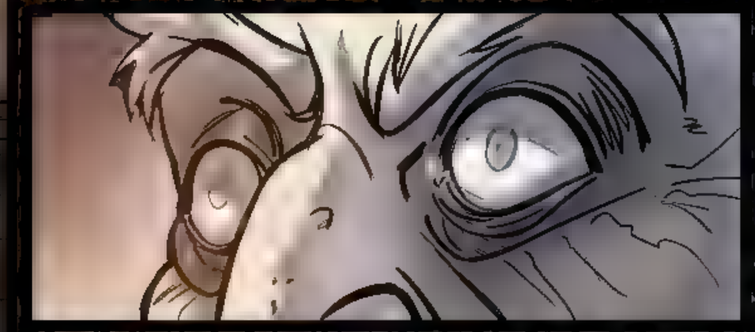


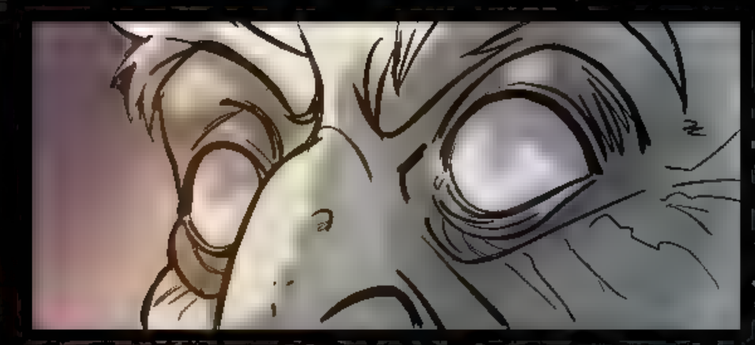


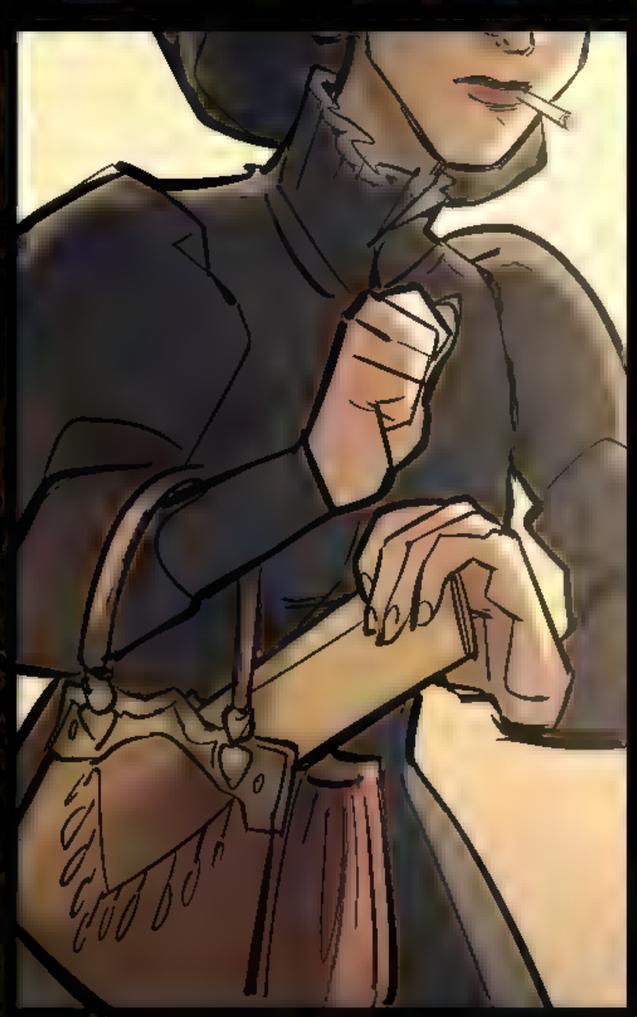


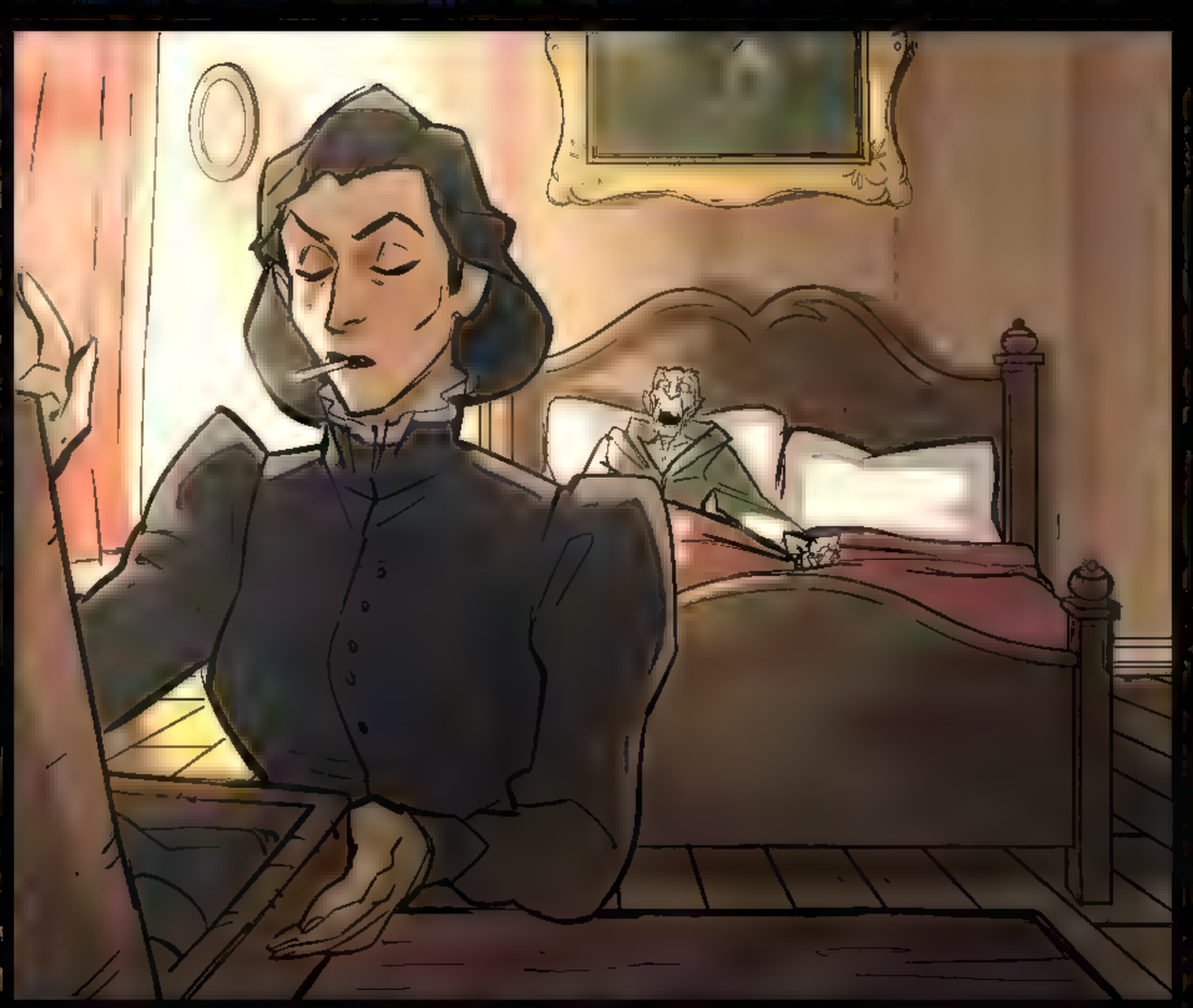


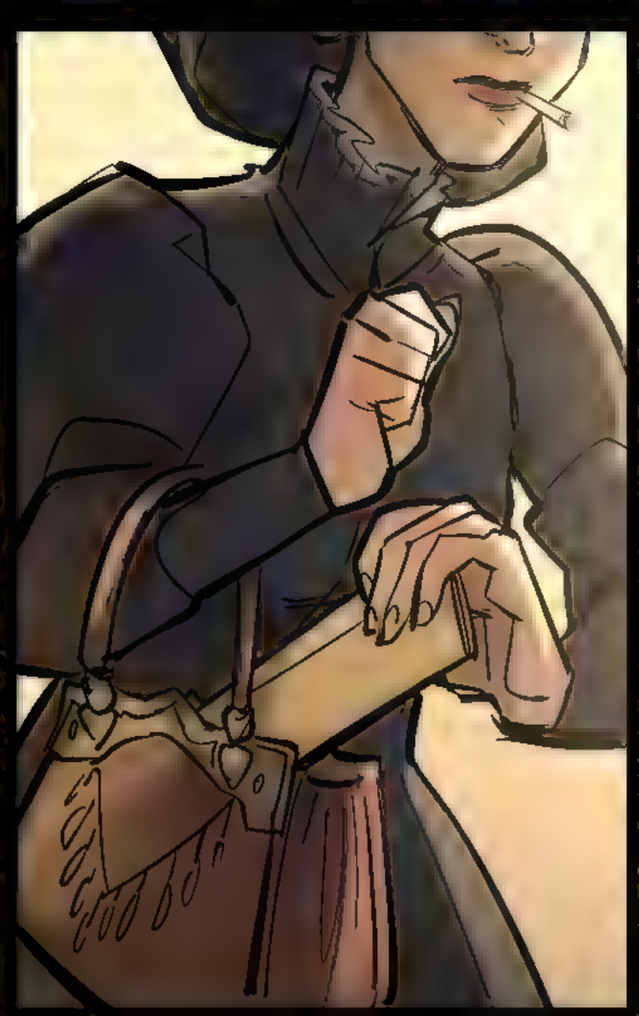


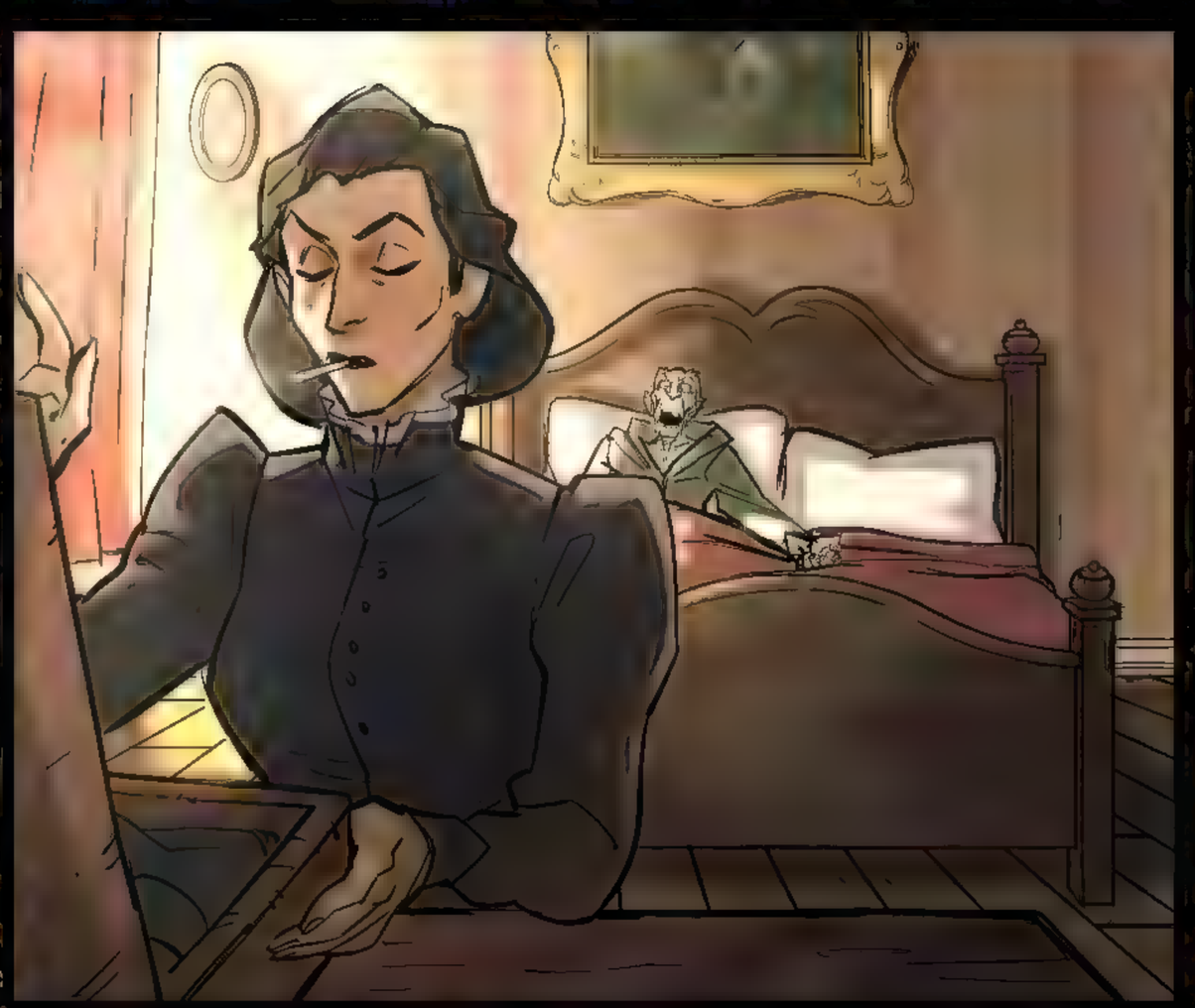


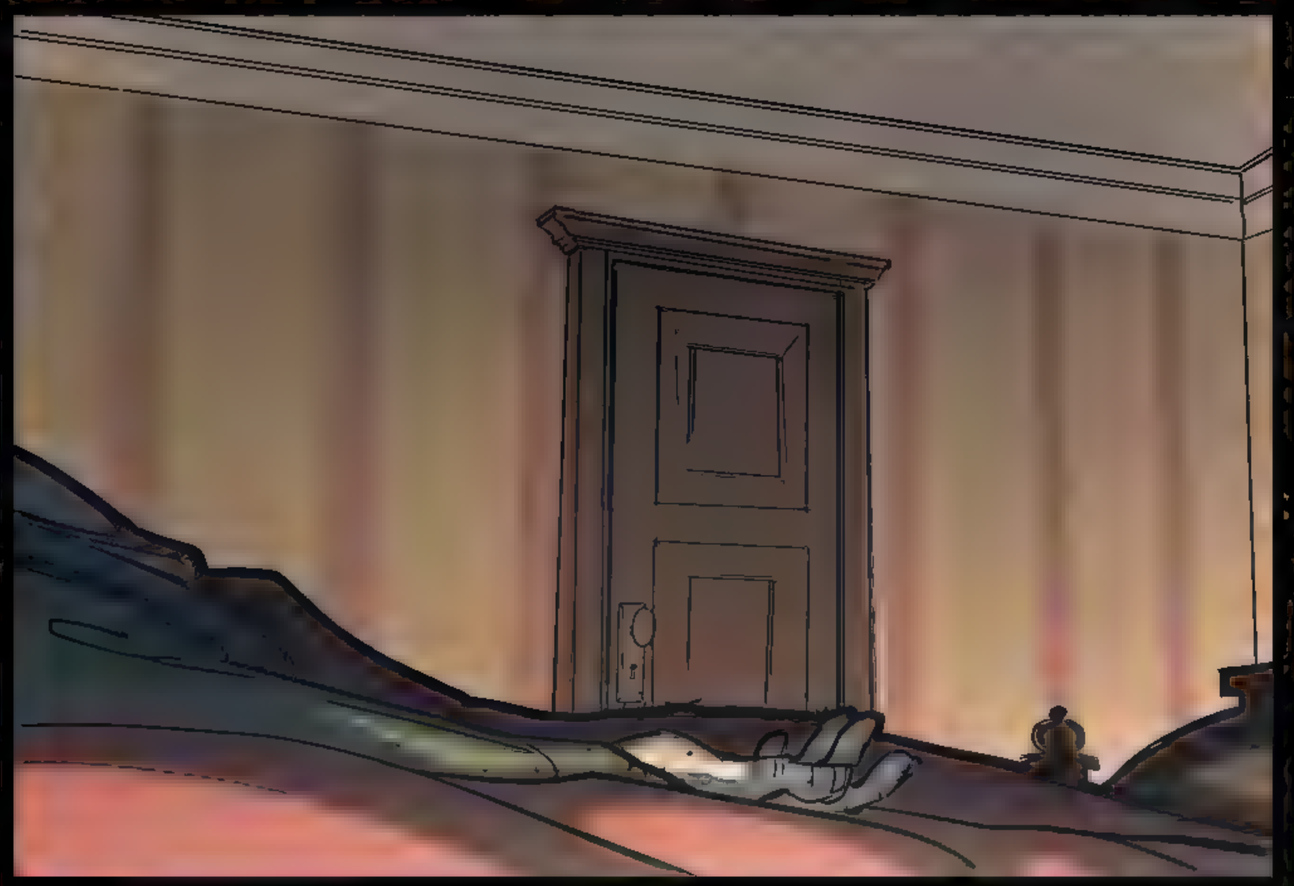






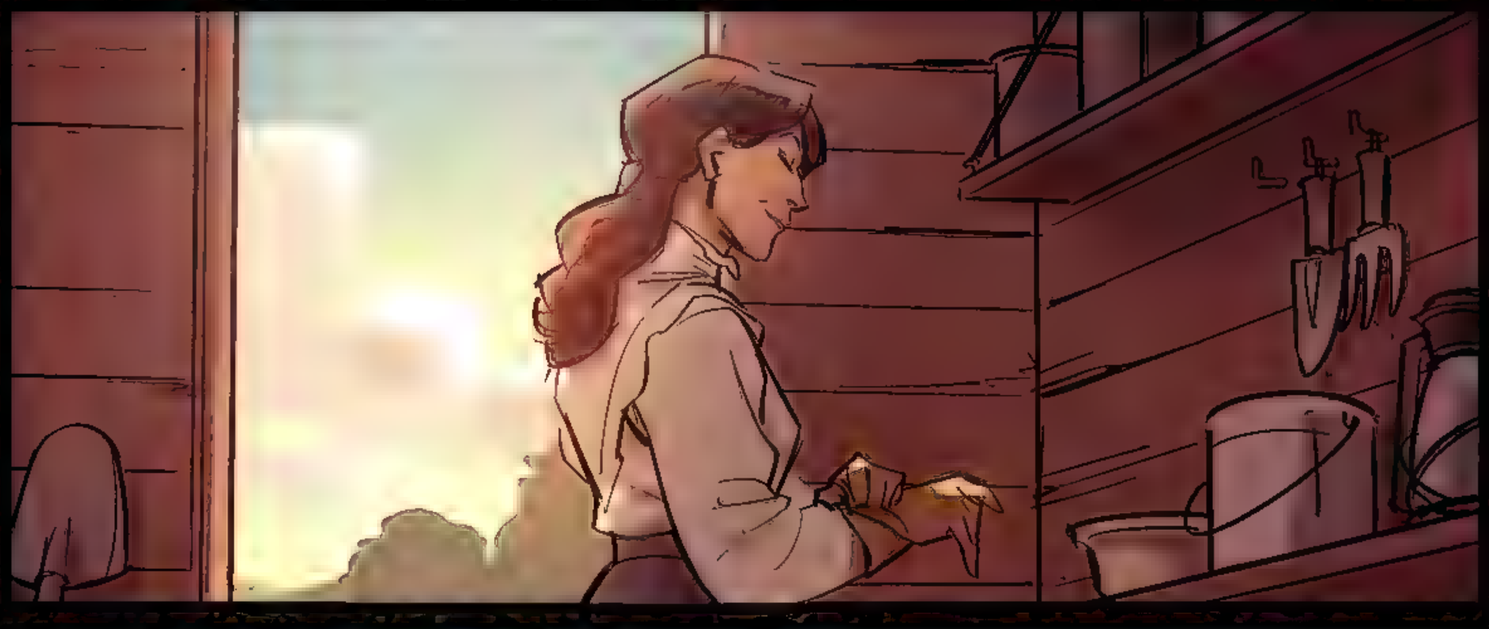


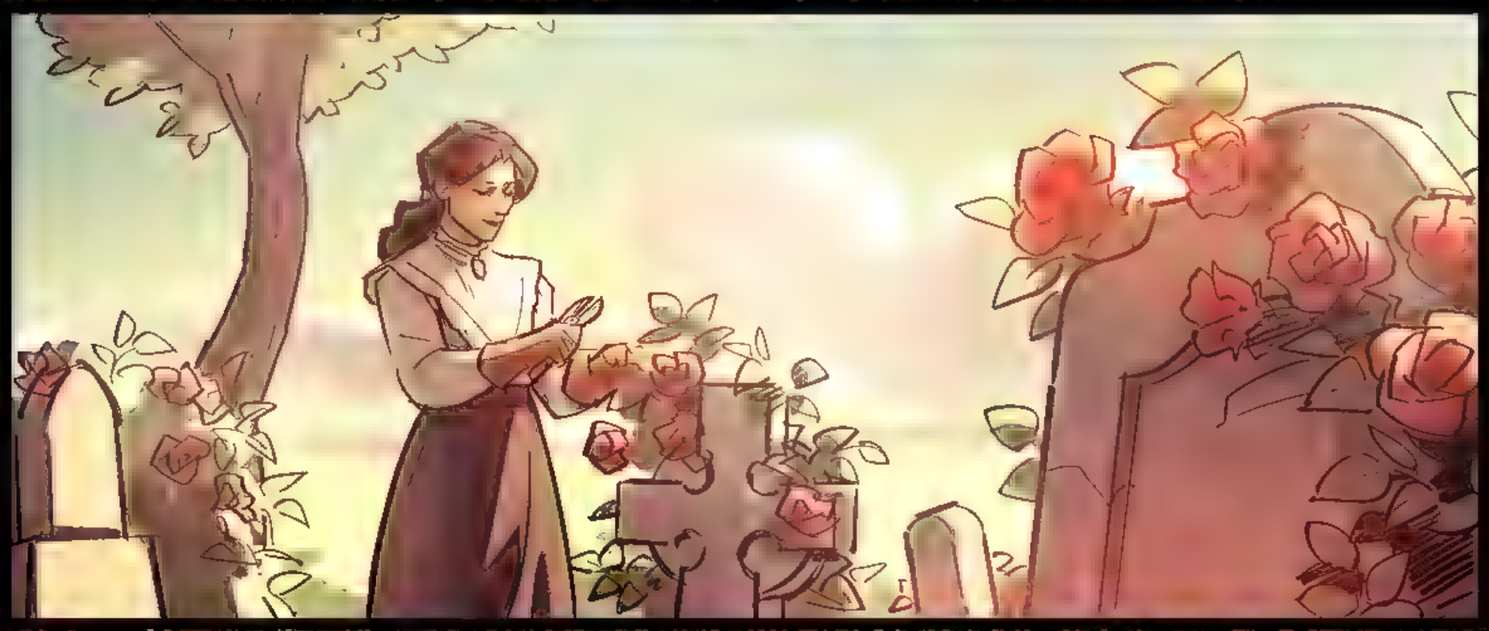


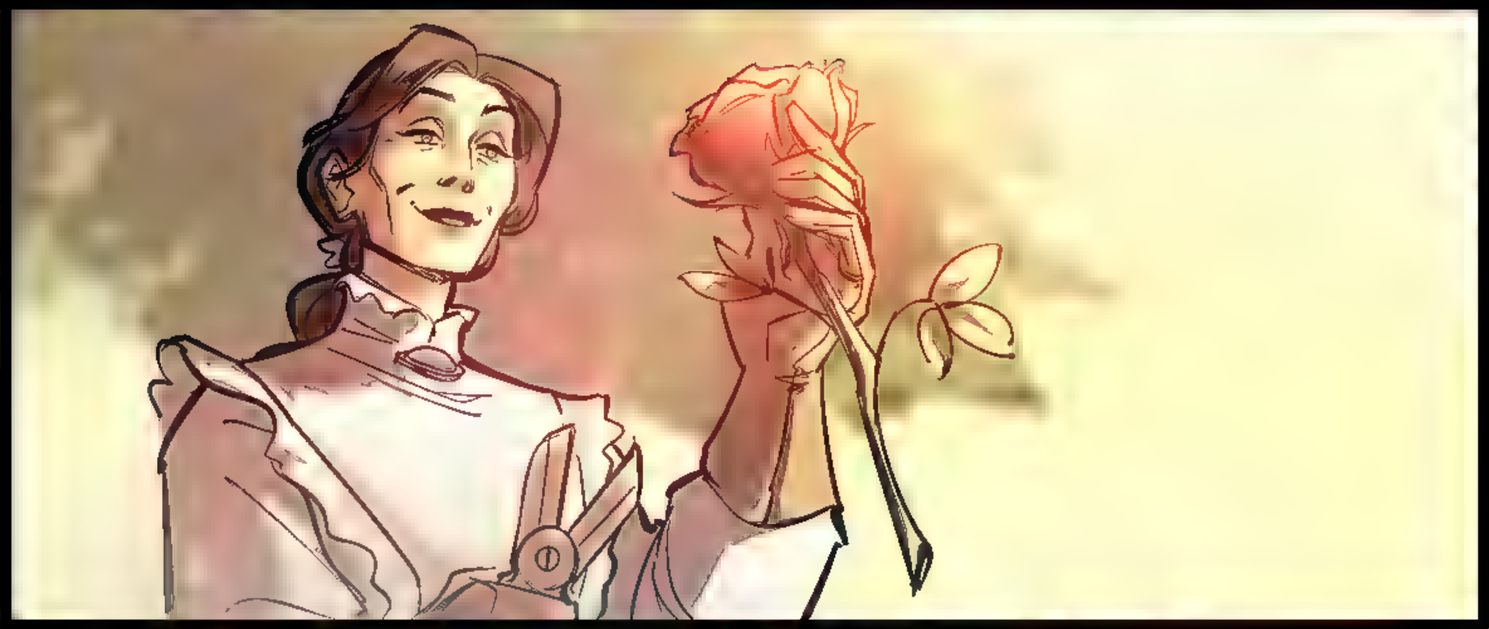


MANN MANOR.

ONE YEAR LATER.

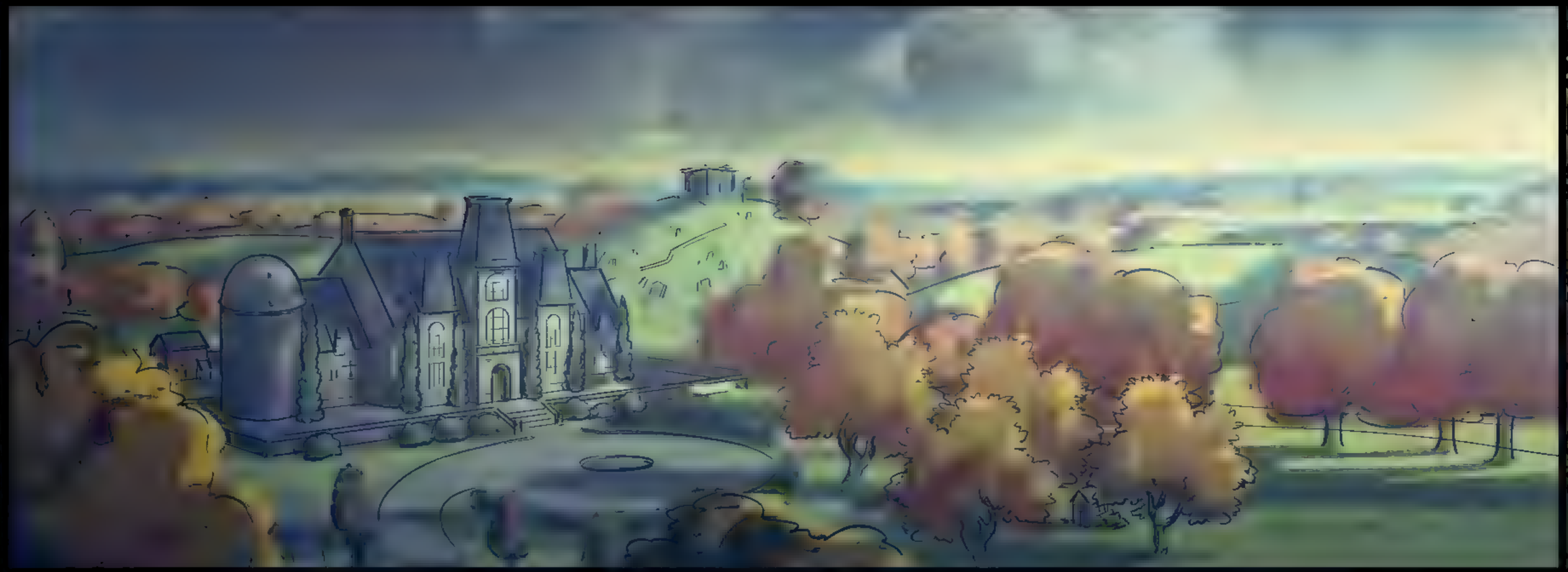


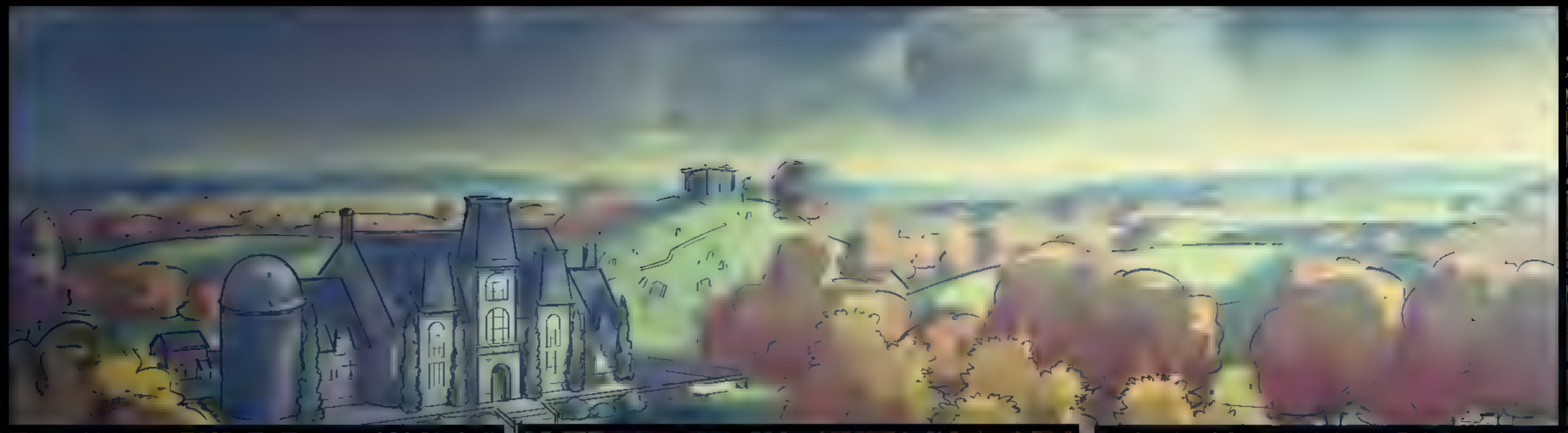


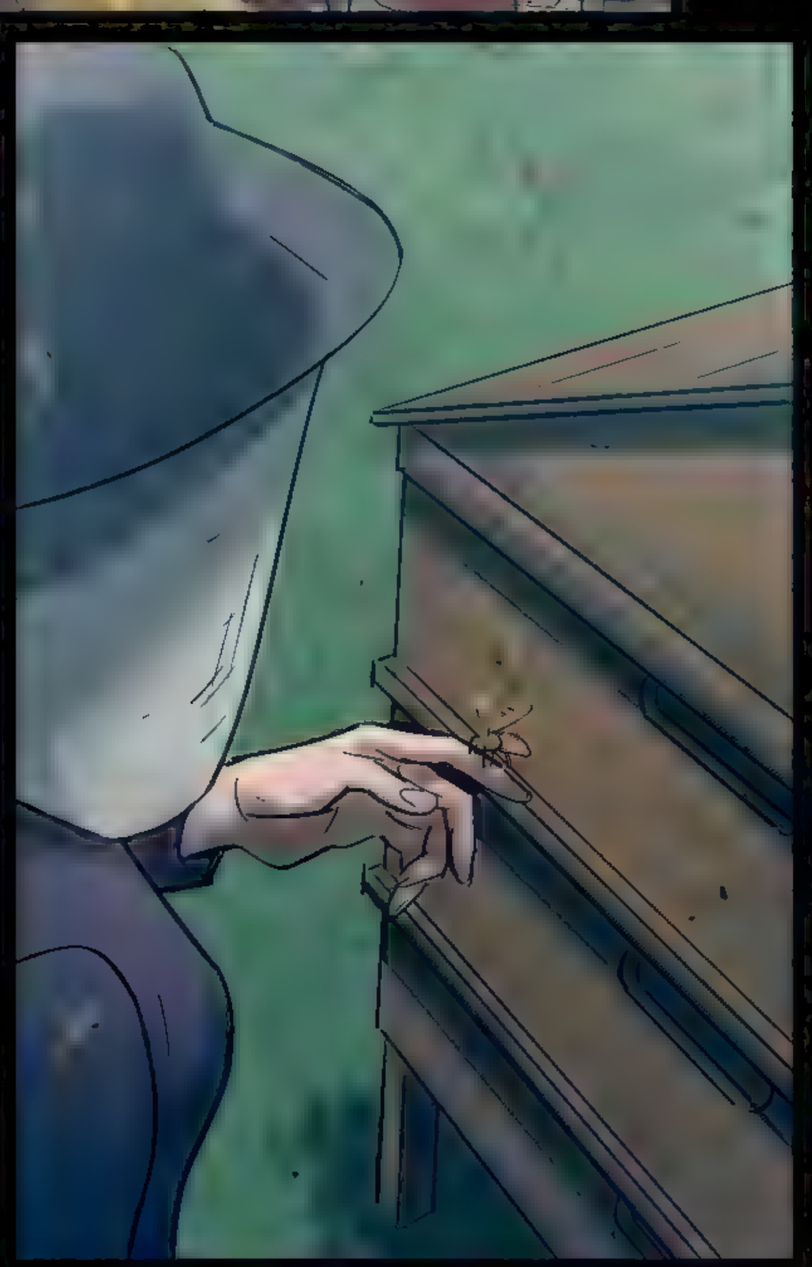


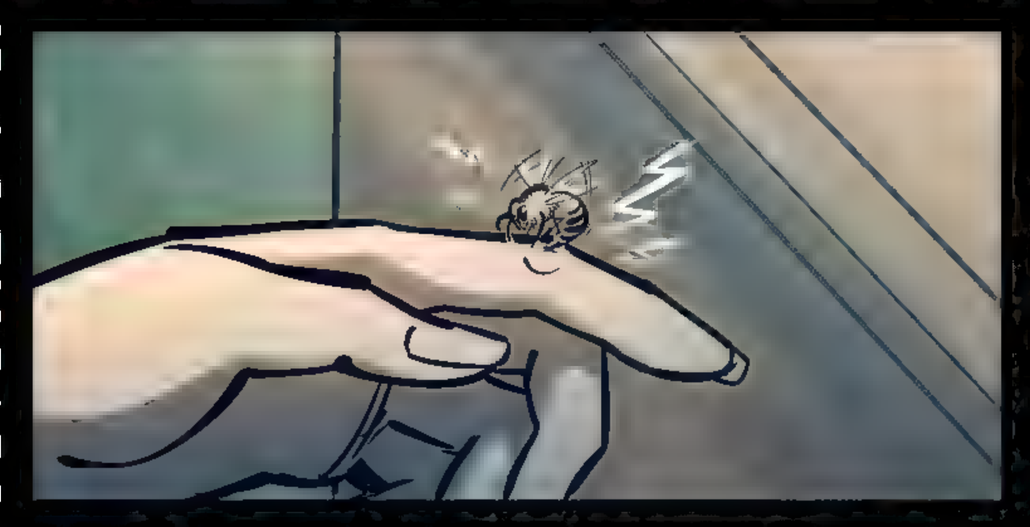
Z.M.

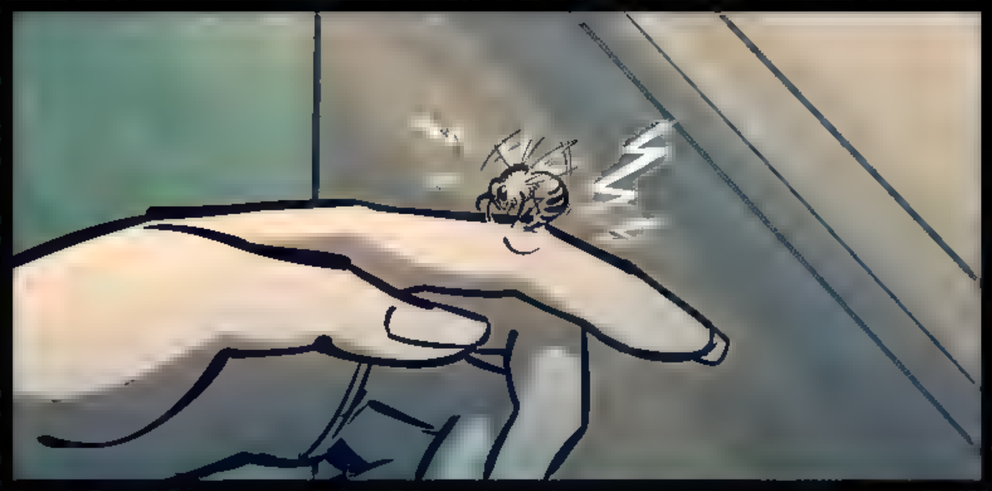
Z.M.

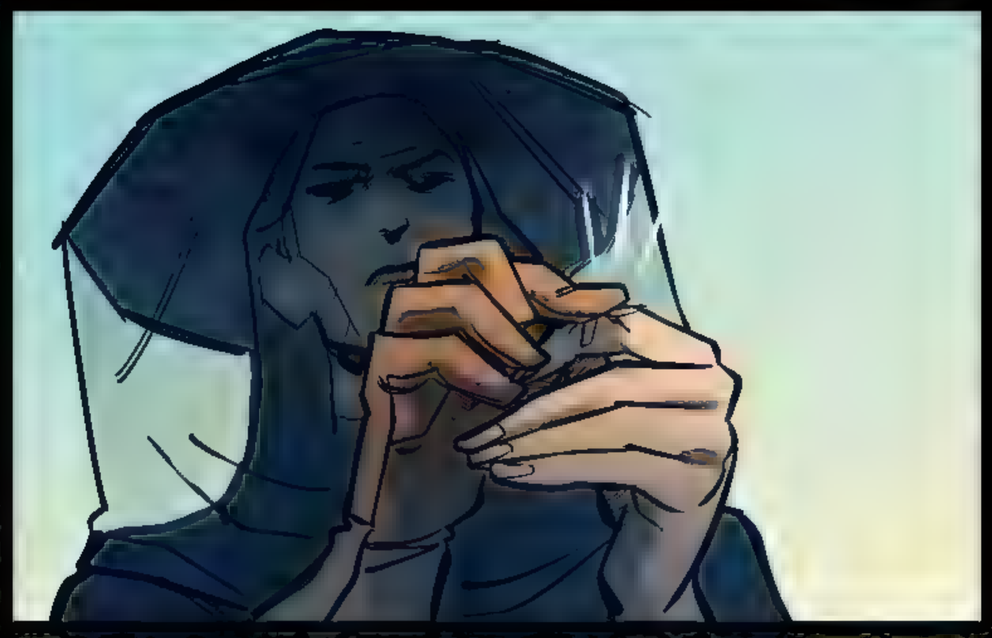


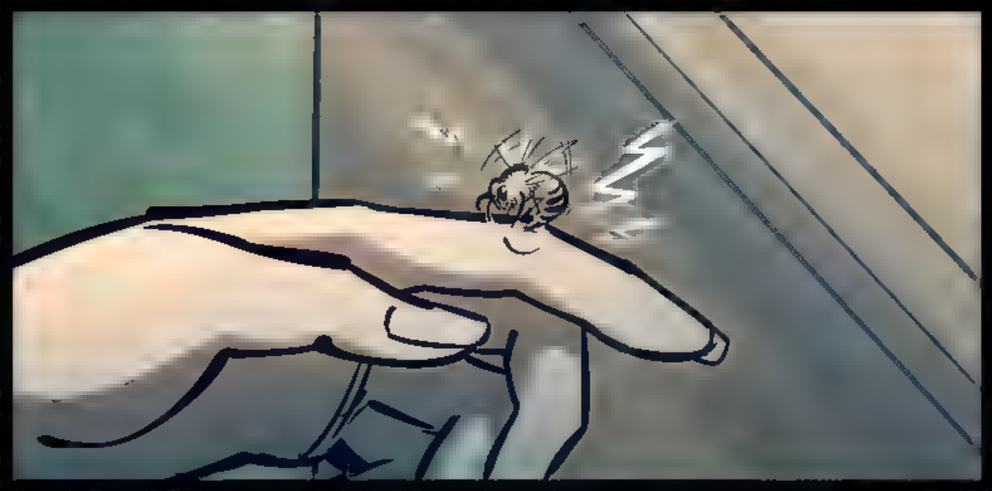


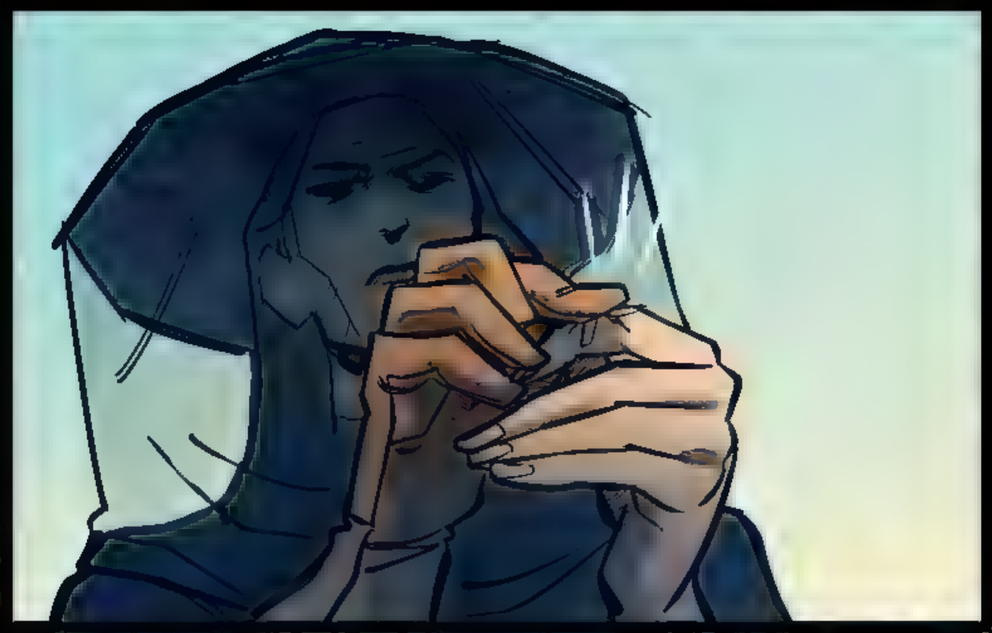


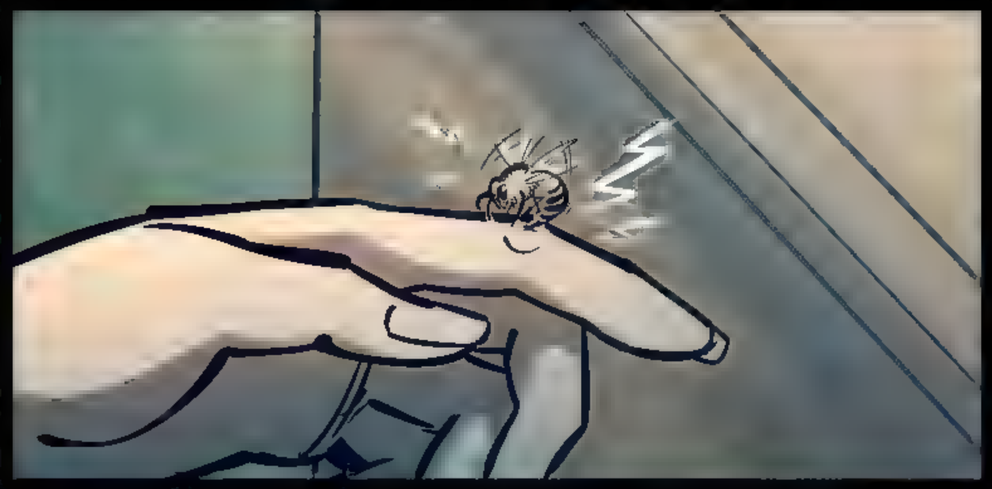


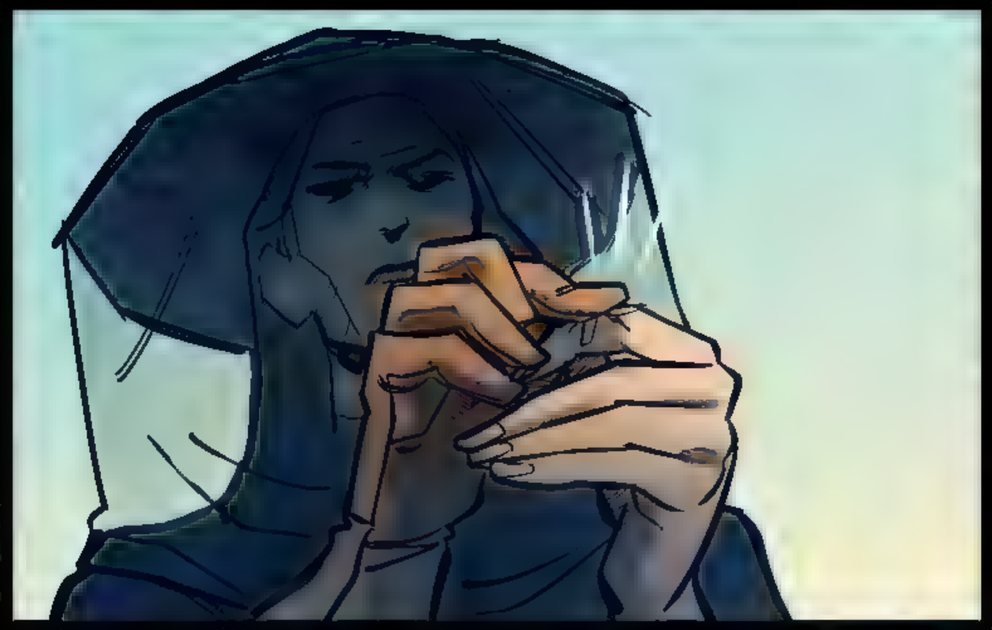


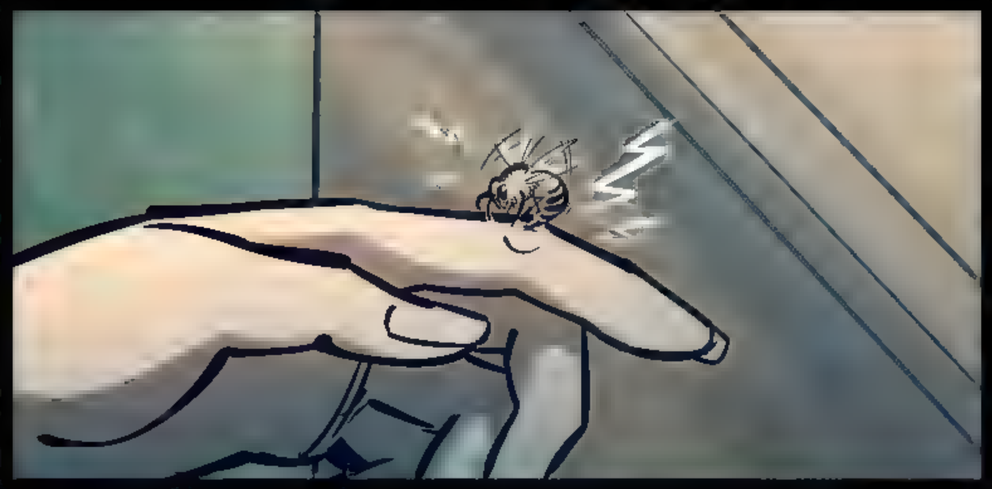


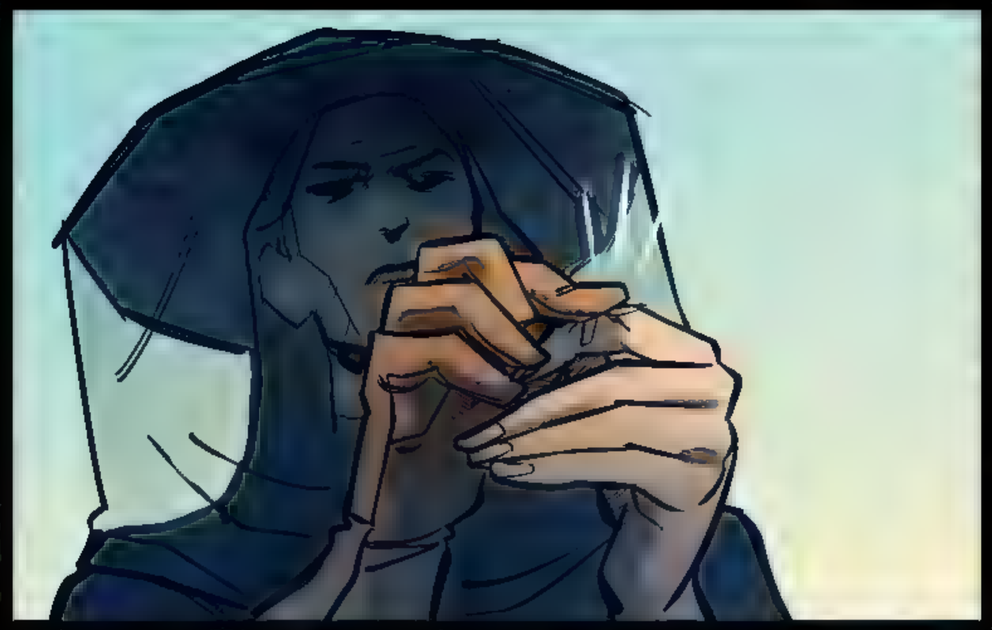


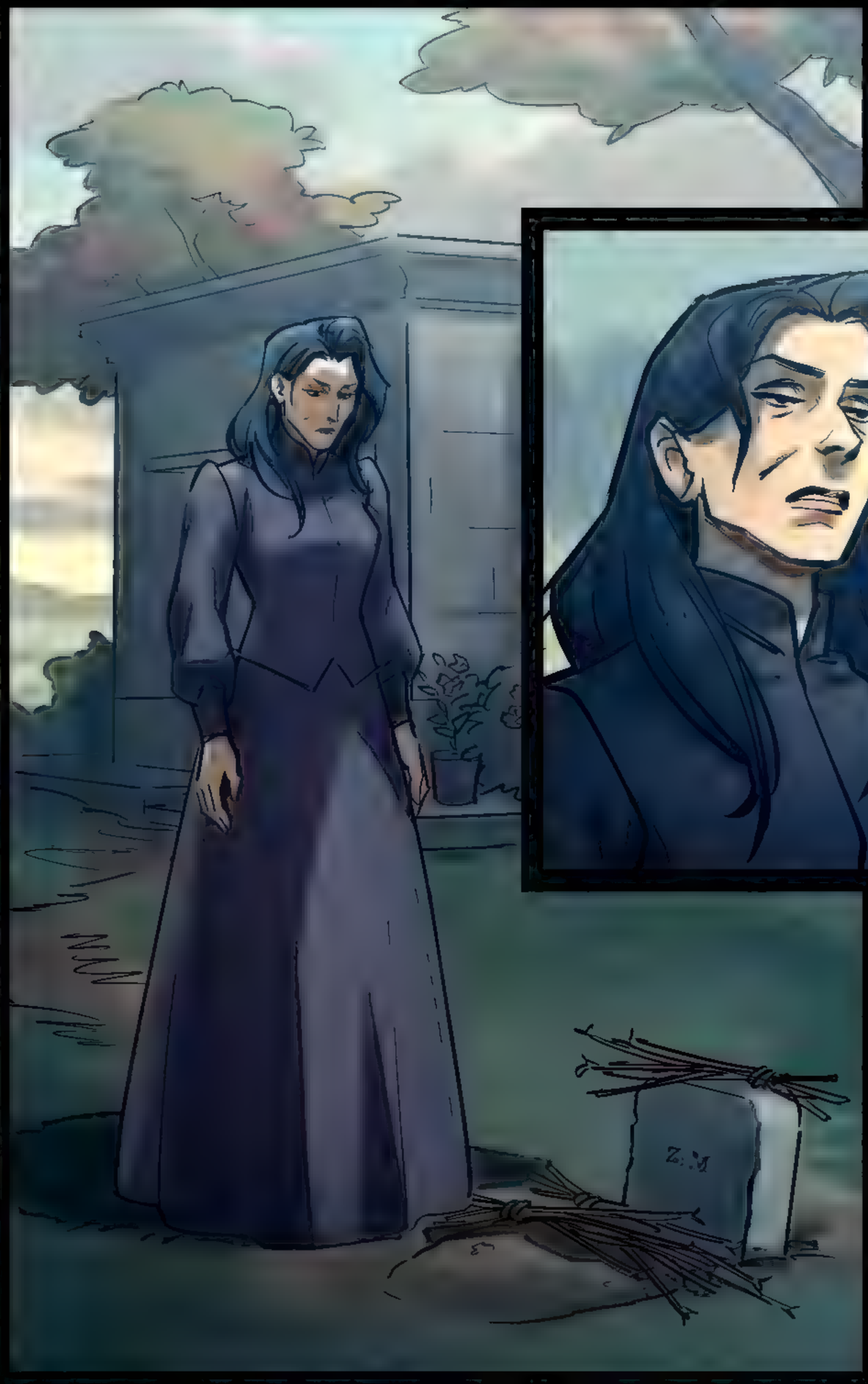


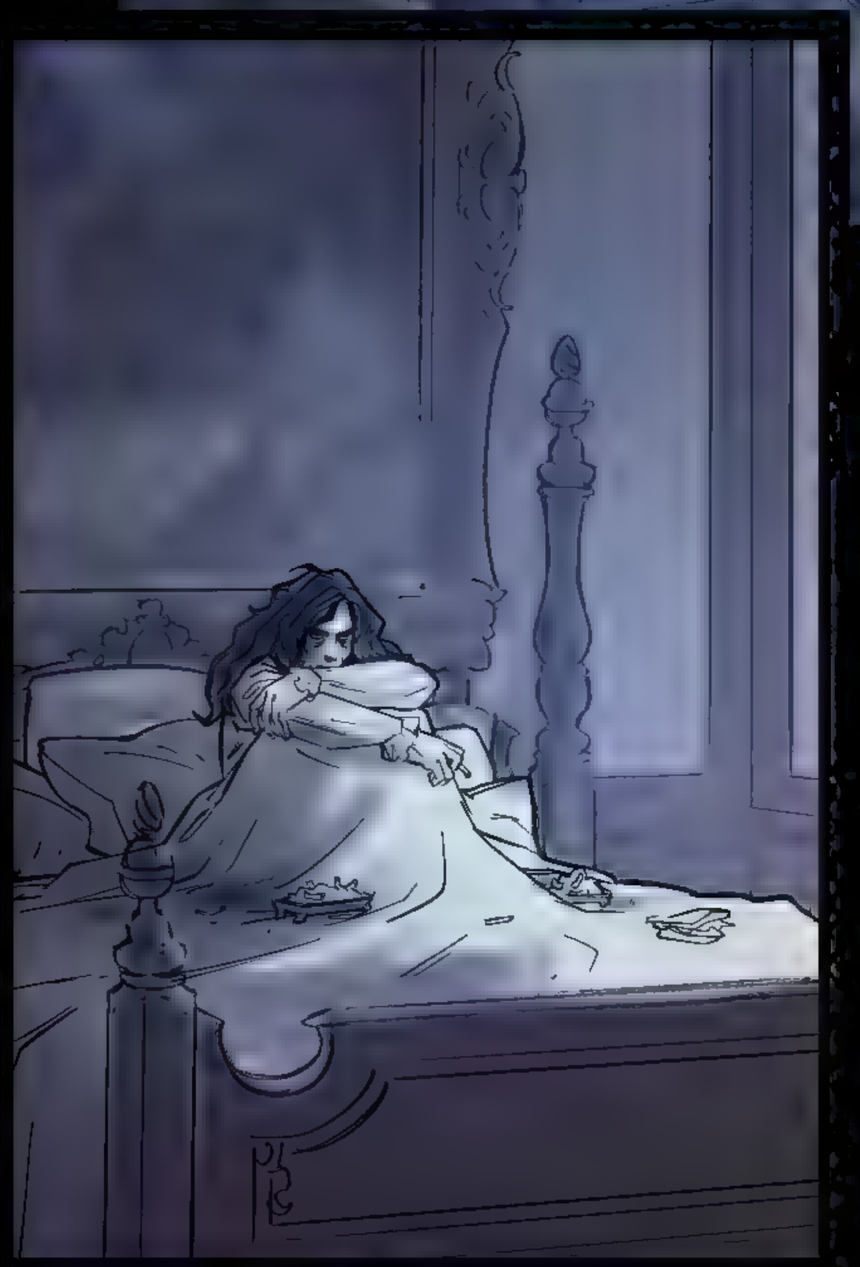


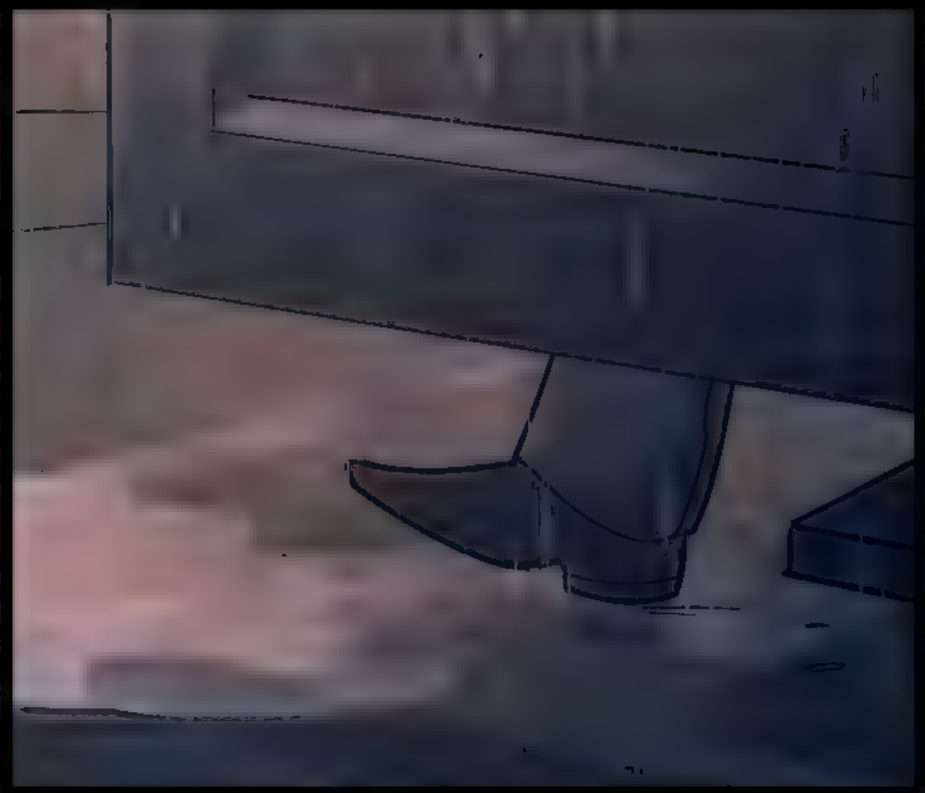


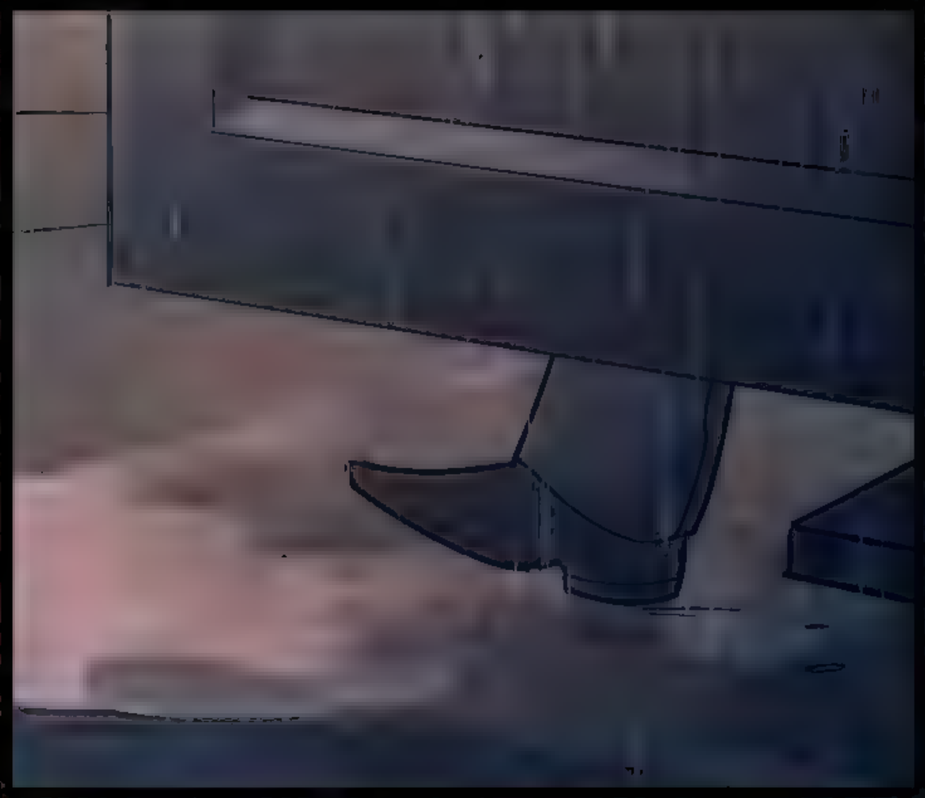


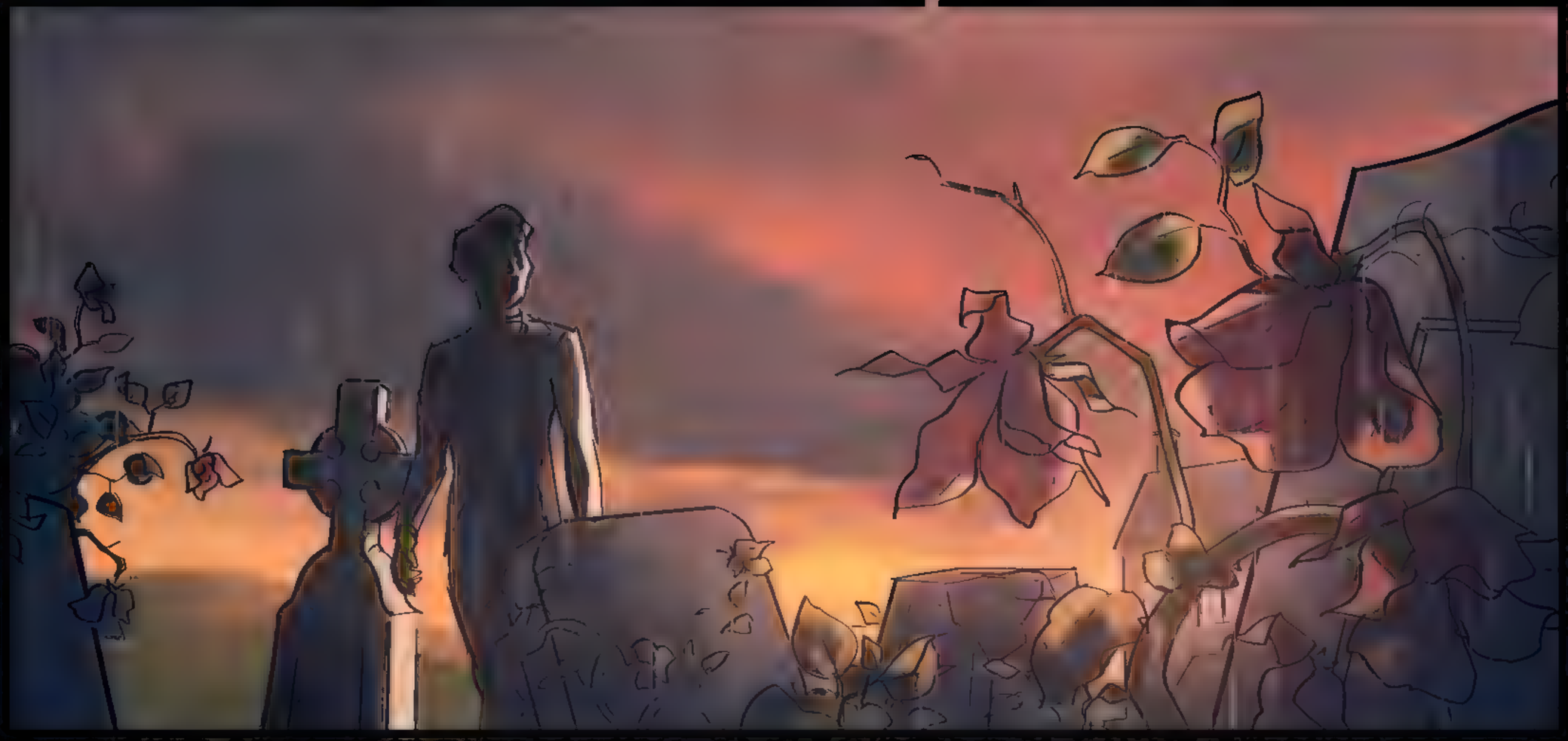


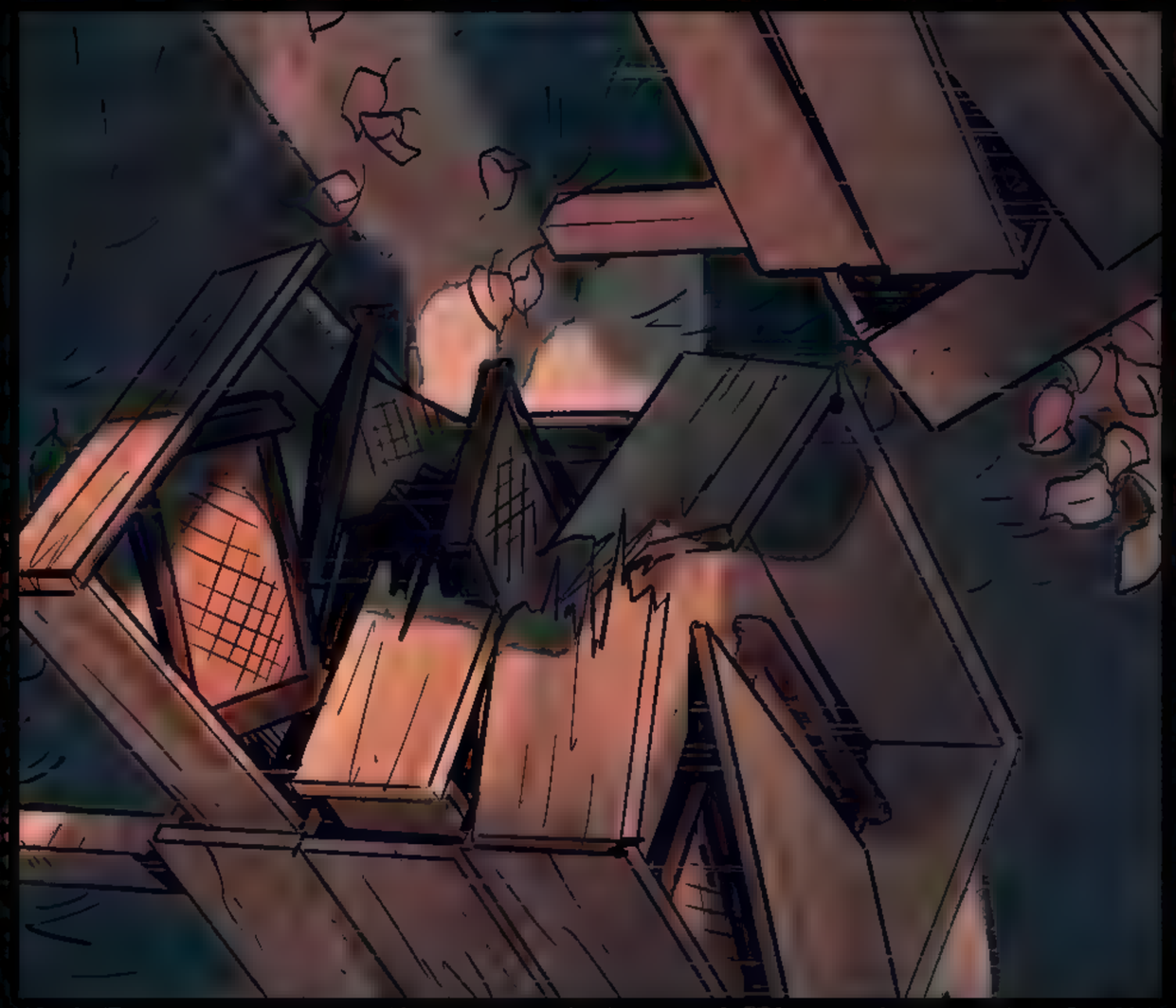


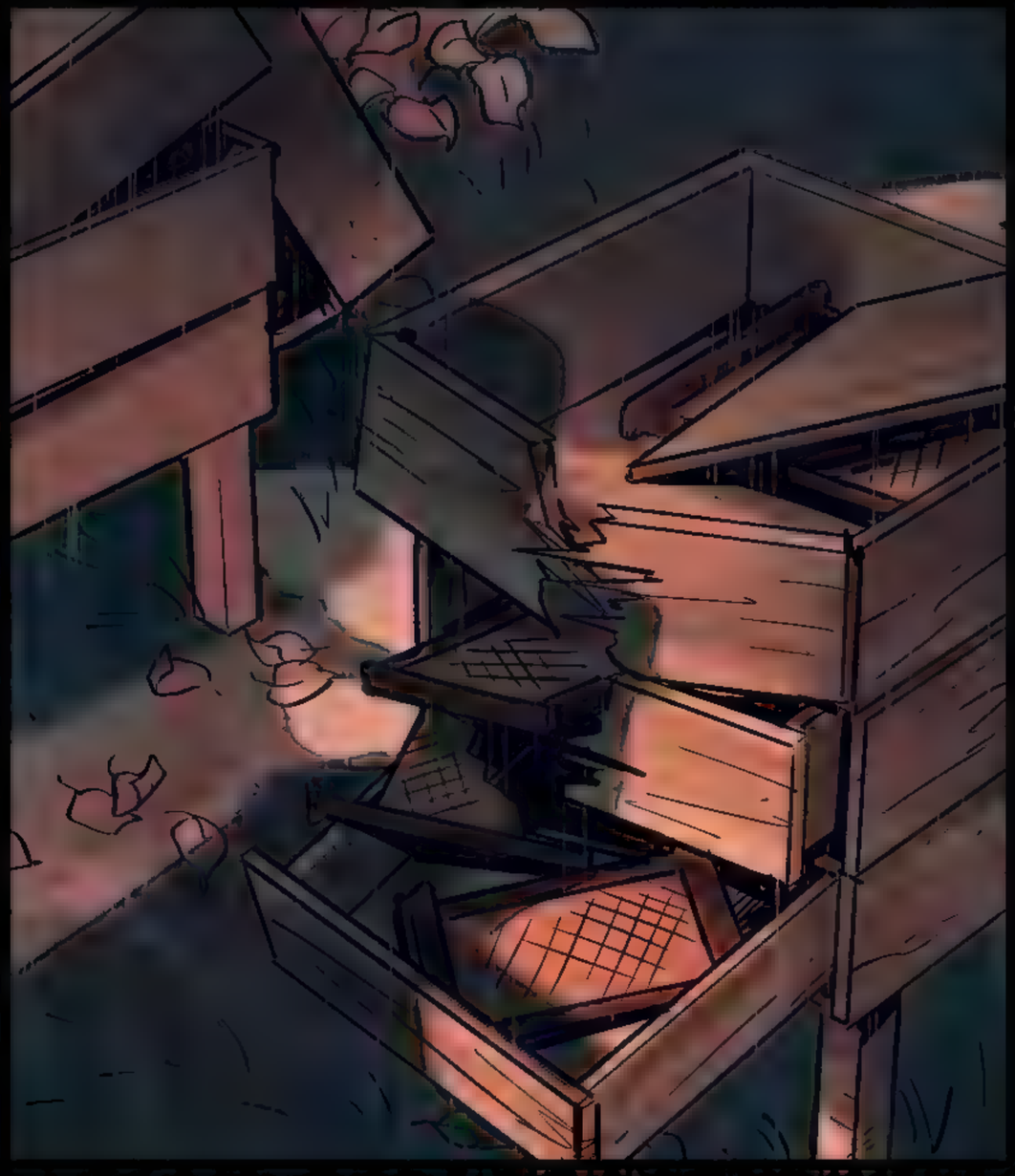


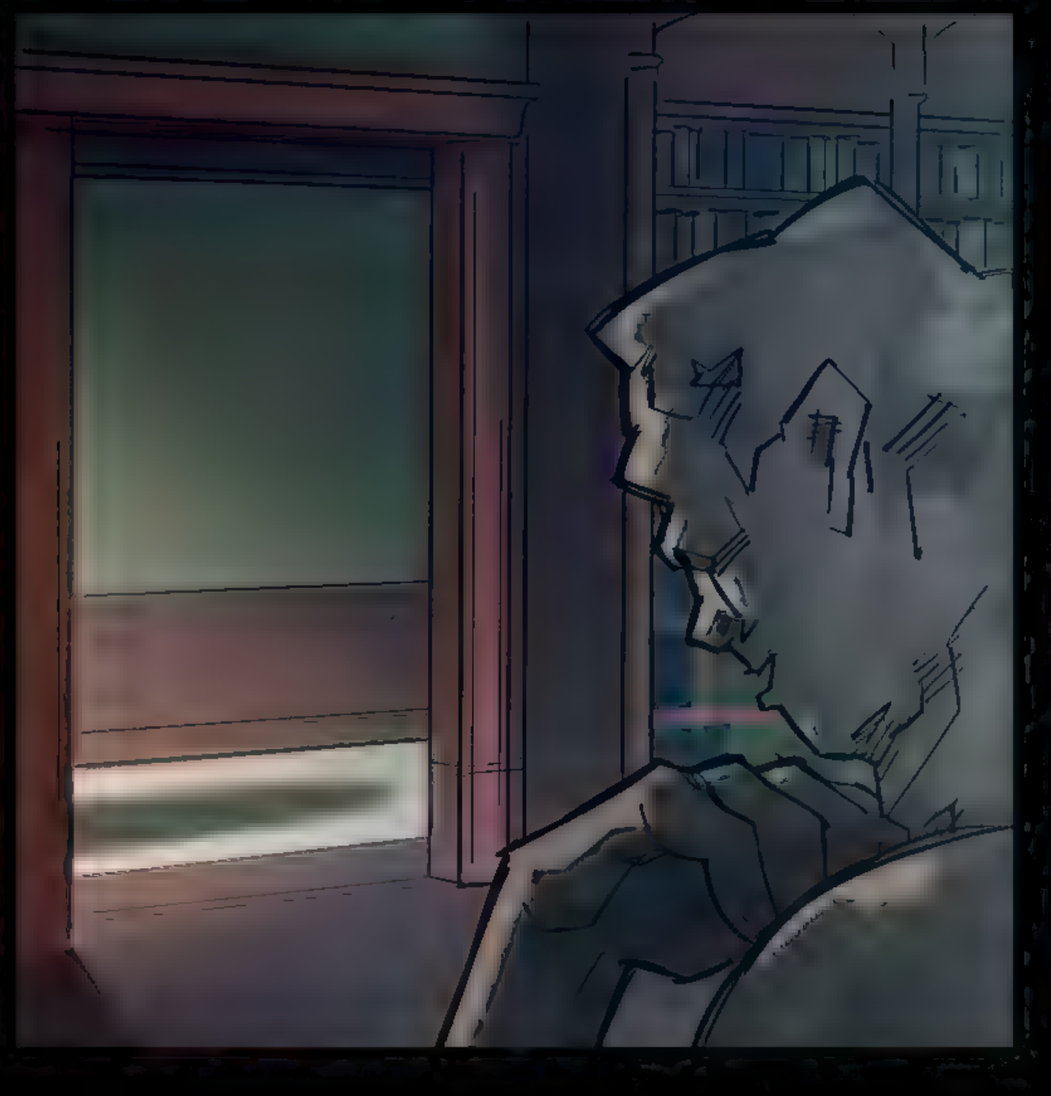


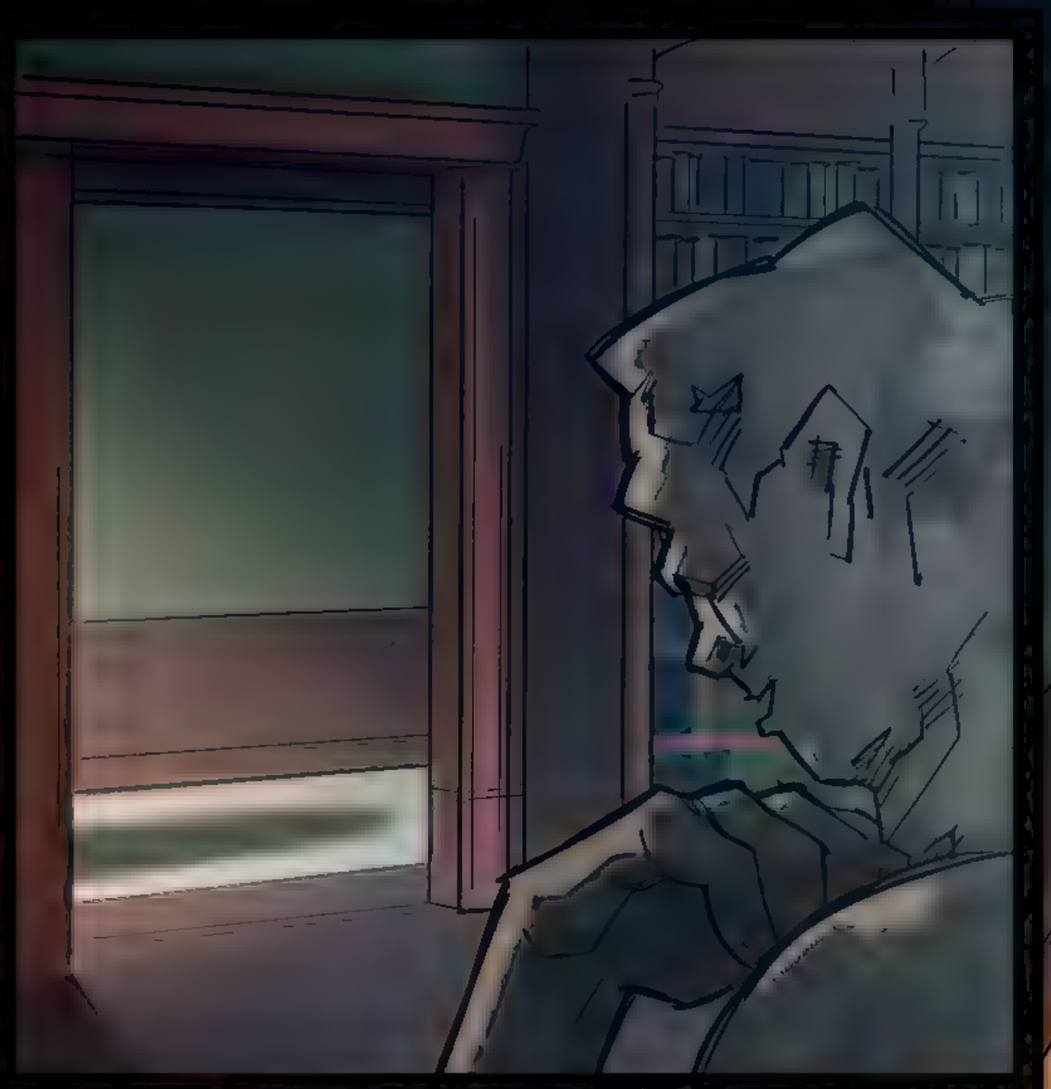












HELLO.

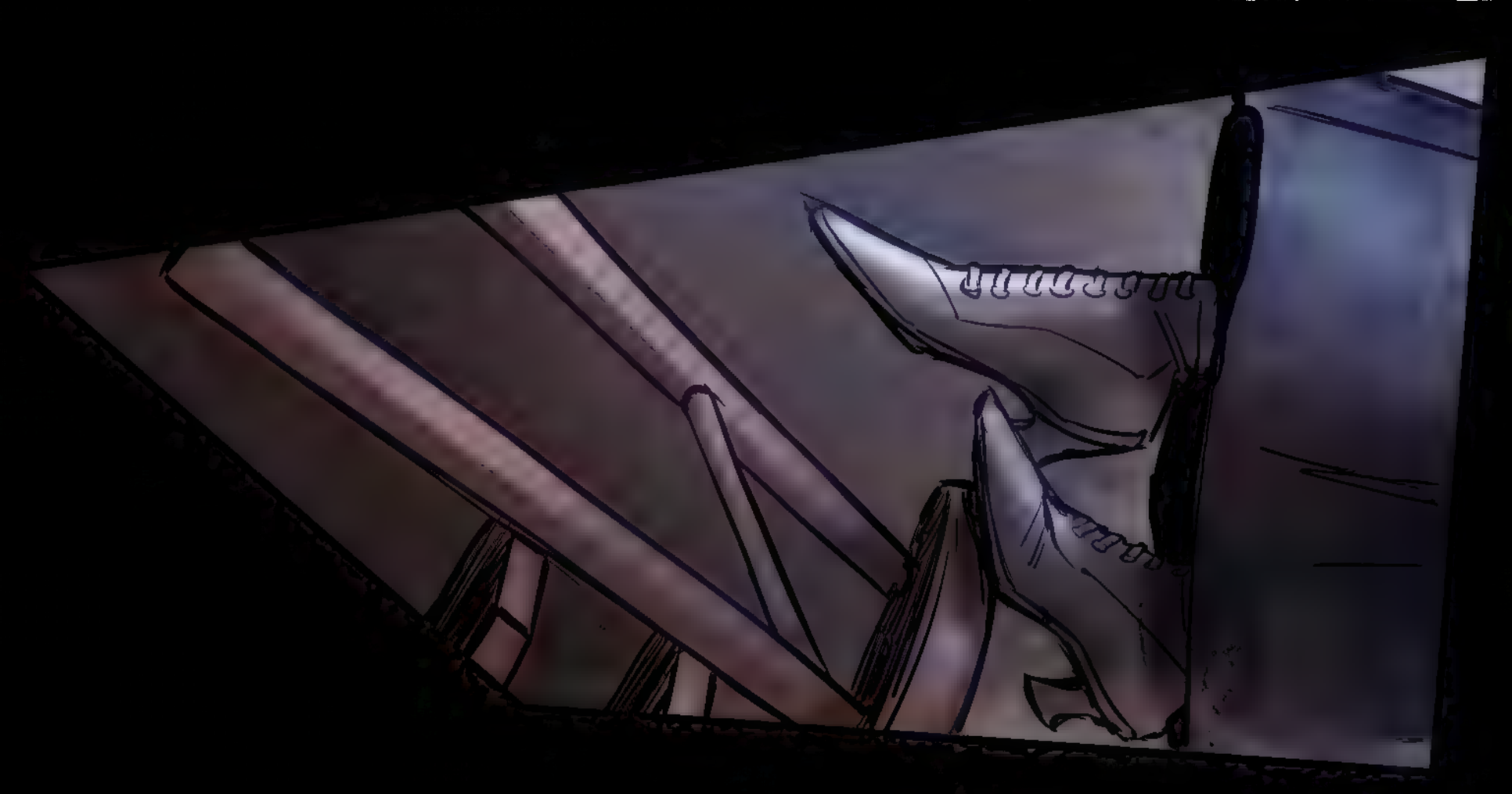
HELLO.

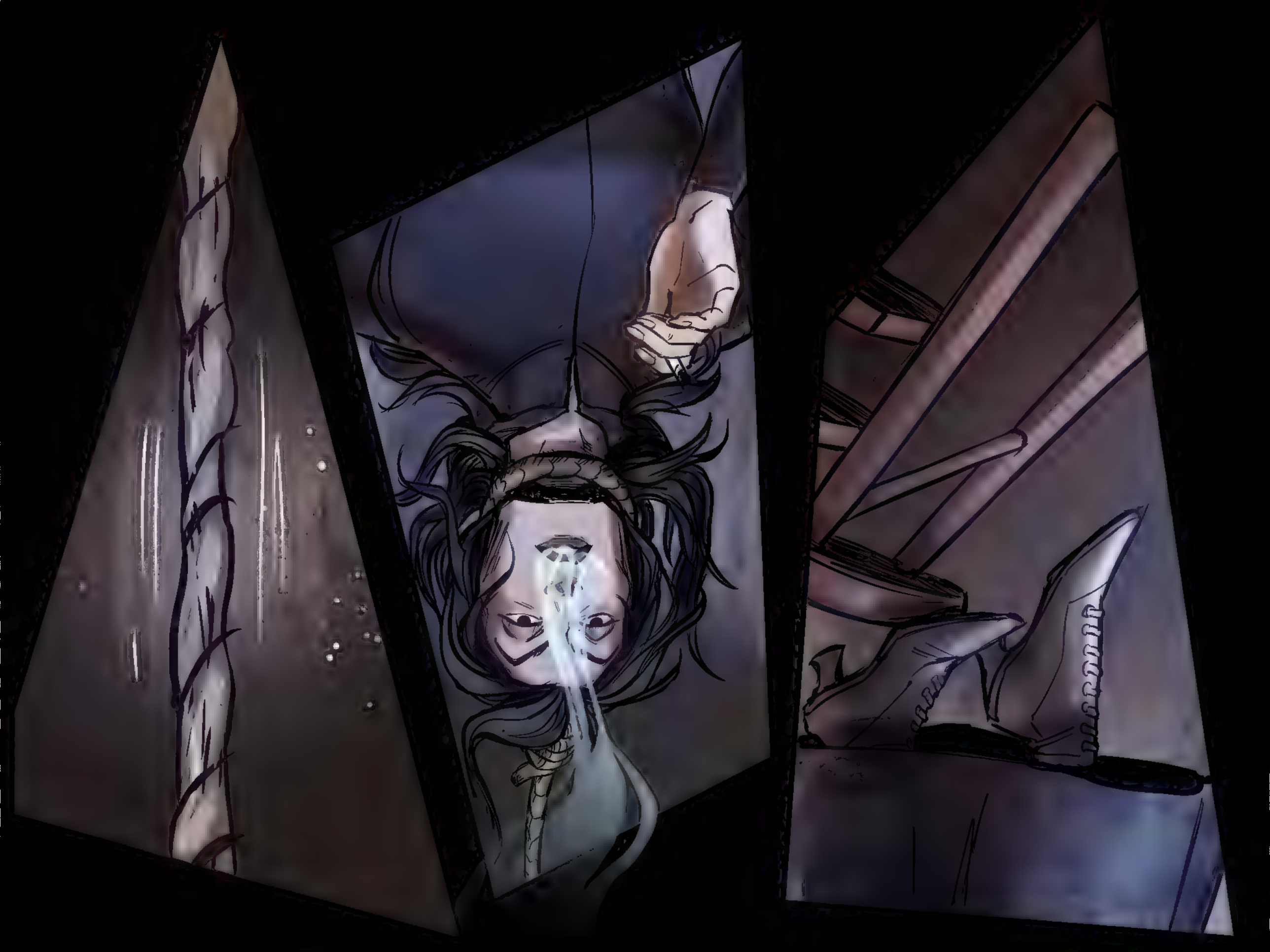
HELLO.

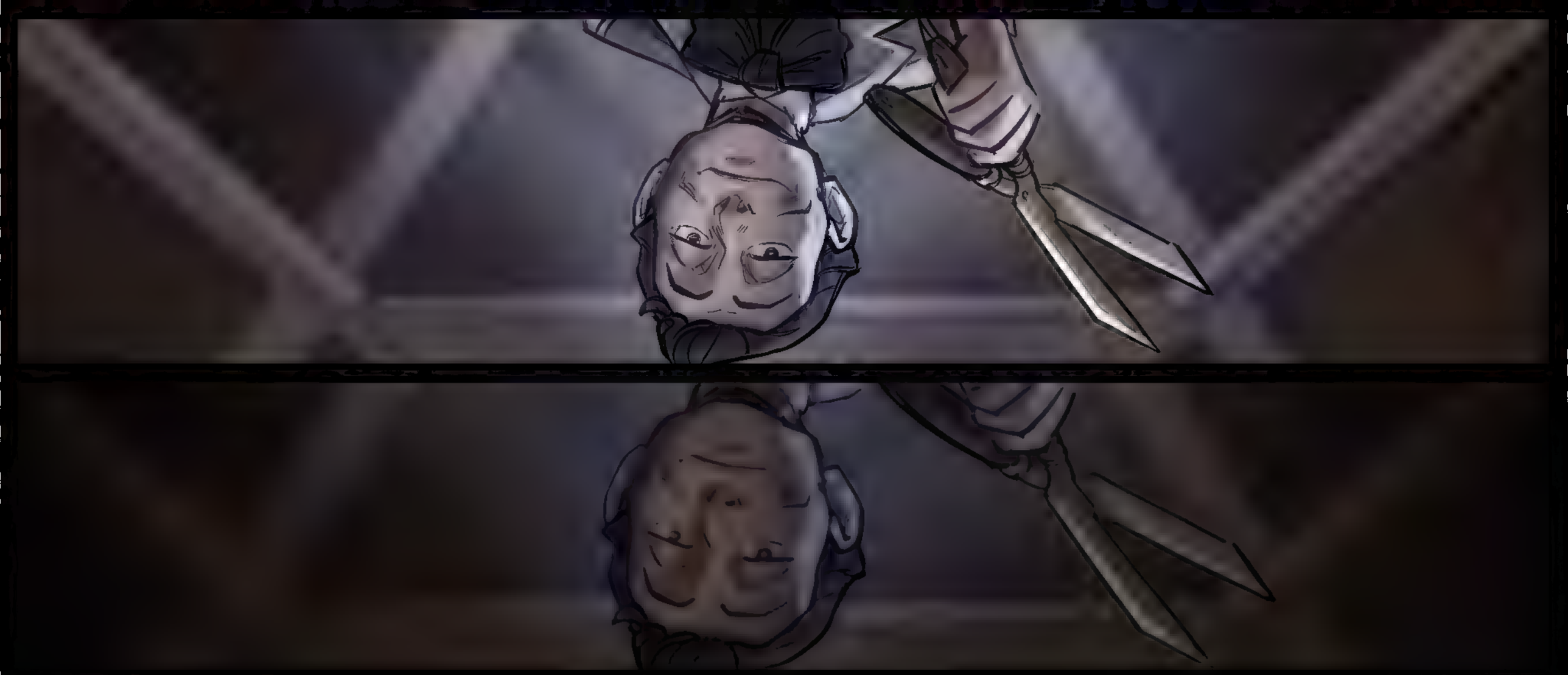
HAVE I COME AT A BAD TIME?

HELLO.

HAVE I COME AT A BAD TIME?







YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME DIE.

OH, I DID.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME DIE.

OH, I DID.

POIK

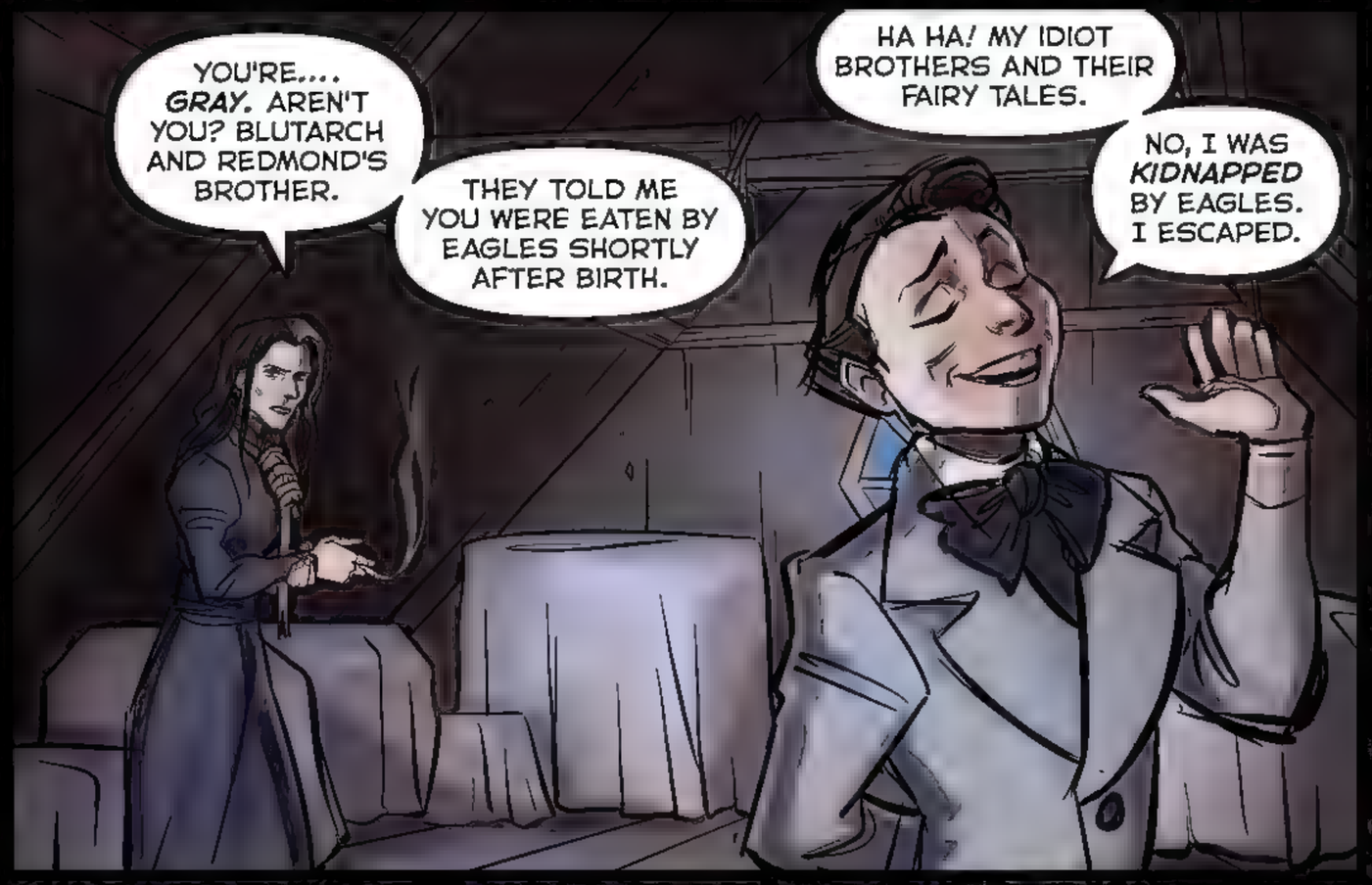
YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME DIE.

OH, I DID.

YES. EMPTY NOW. BUT I GAVE YOU JUST ENOUGH TO GET BACK.

MADAM, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

POIK


YOU'RE.... GRAY. AREN'T YOU? BLUTARCH AND REDMOND'S BROTHER.
THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE EATEN BY EAGLES SHORTLY AFTER BIRTH.
HA HA! MY IDIOT BROTHERS AND THEIR FAIRY TALES.
NO, I WAS KIDNAPPED BY EAGLES. I ESCAPED.

SPEAKING OF FAIRY TALES...
...I ALSO KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

YOU'RE.... *GRAY.* AREN'T YOU? BLUTARCH AND REDMOND'S BROTHER.

THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE EATEN BY EAGLES SHORTLY AFTER BIRTH.

HA HA! MY IDIOT BROTHERS AND THEIR FAIRY TALES.

NO, I WAS *KIDNAPPED* BY EAGLES. I ESCAPED.

SPEAKING OF FAIRY TALES...

...I ALSO KNOW WHO *YOU* ARE.

OR RATHER, I KNOW WHO YOU AREN'T.

WHICH IS EMILY OR ELIZABETH OR HELEN OR WHATEVER BOGUS IDENTITY YOU'RE USING AT THE MOMENT.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO MY FATHER.

SO... WHAT? YOU'RE HERE TO AVENGE HIM?

IF SO, HELP ME BACK UP THIS LADDER AND LET'S GET TO IT.

HARDLY.

IN TRUTH, I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN EITHER ONE OF YOU.

SO... WHAT? YOU'RE HERE TO AVENGE HIM?

IF SO, HELP ME BACK UP THIS LADDER AND LET'S GET TO IT.

HARDLY.

IN TRUTH, I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN EITHER ONE OF YOU.

NO, I'M HERE ABOUT THE "MIRACLE GRAVEL" MY FATHER LEFT YOU.

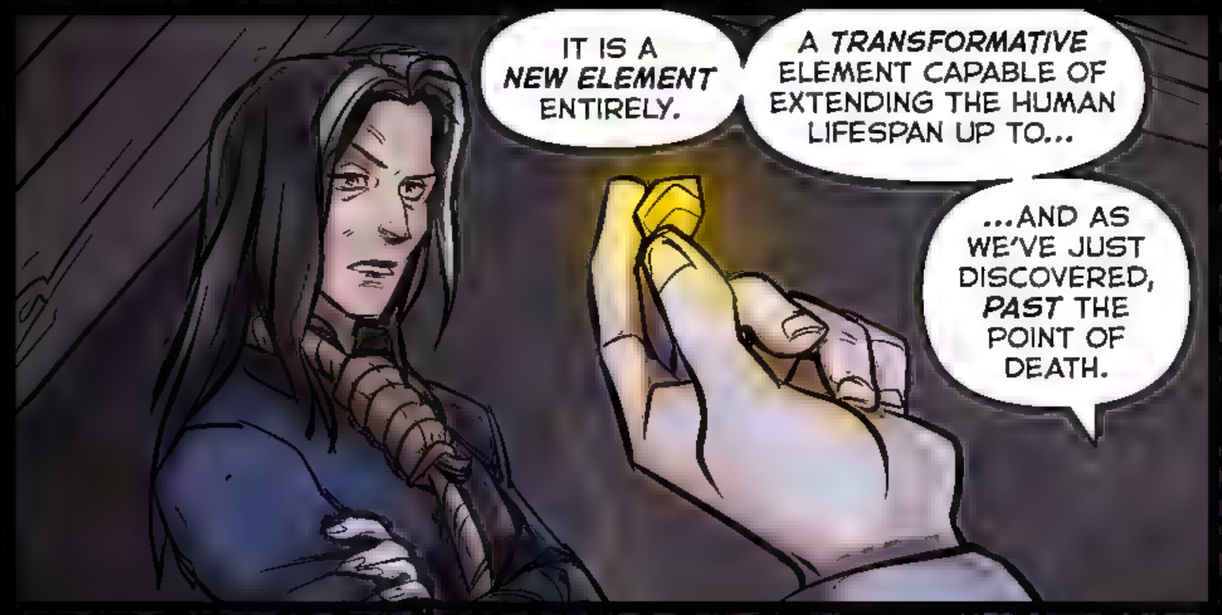
DO YOU HAVE IT?

I DO.

IT'S FOOL'S GOLD. WORTHLESS.

AS GOLD, CERTAINLY.

BECAUSE IT'S *NOT* GOLD.


IT IS A *NEW ELEMENT* ENTIRELY.
A *TRANSFORMATIVE* ELEMENT CAPABLE OF EXTENDING THE HUMAN LIFESPAN UP TO...
...AND AS WE'VE JUST DISCOVERED, *PAST* THE POINT OF DEATH.

IT IS A *NEW ELEMENT* ENTIRELY.

A *TRANSFORMATIVE* ELEMENT CAPABLE OF EXTENDING THE HUMAN LIFESPAN UP TO...

...AND AS WE'VE JUST DISCOVERED, *PAST* THE POINT OF DEATH.

OBVIOUSLY NOT OF INTEREST TO SOMEONE...

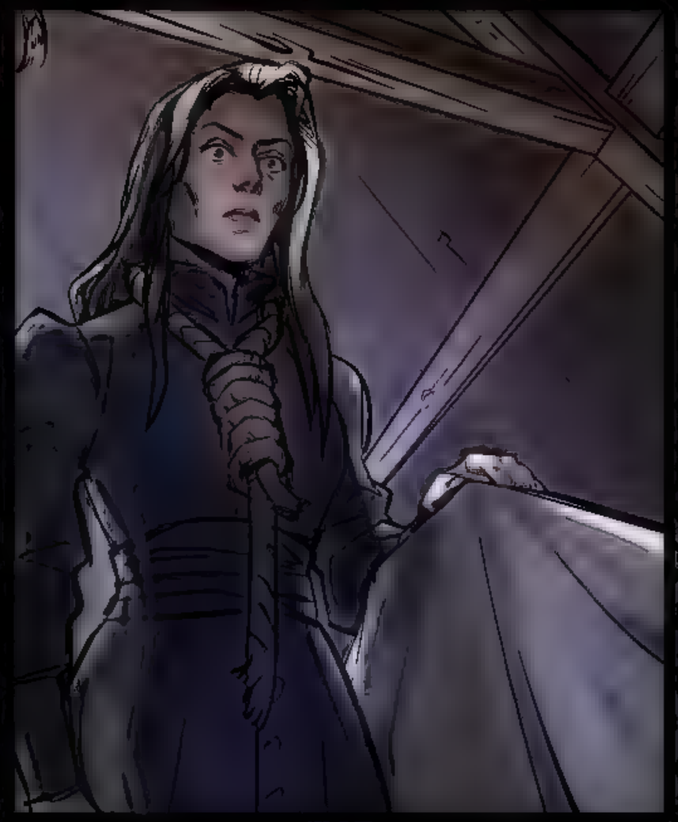
WELL.

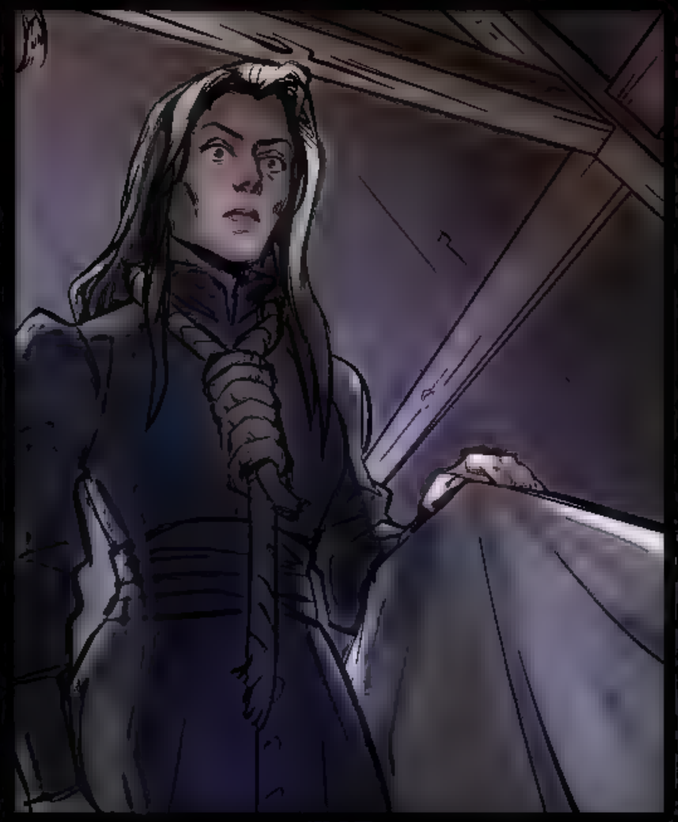
BUT TO THOSE OF US WITH THE WILL TO CONTINUE *LIVING*...

...IT'S *PRICELESS.*

I CAME HERE TO SEE IF YOU'D SELL IT TO ME.

BUT GIVEN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, COULD I POSSIBLY TROUBLE YOU TO JUST *GIVE* IT TO ME?





MADAM?

MADAM?

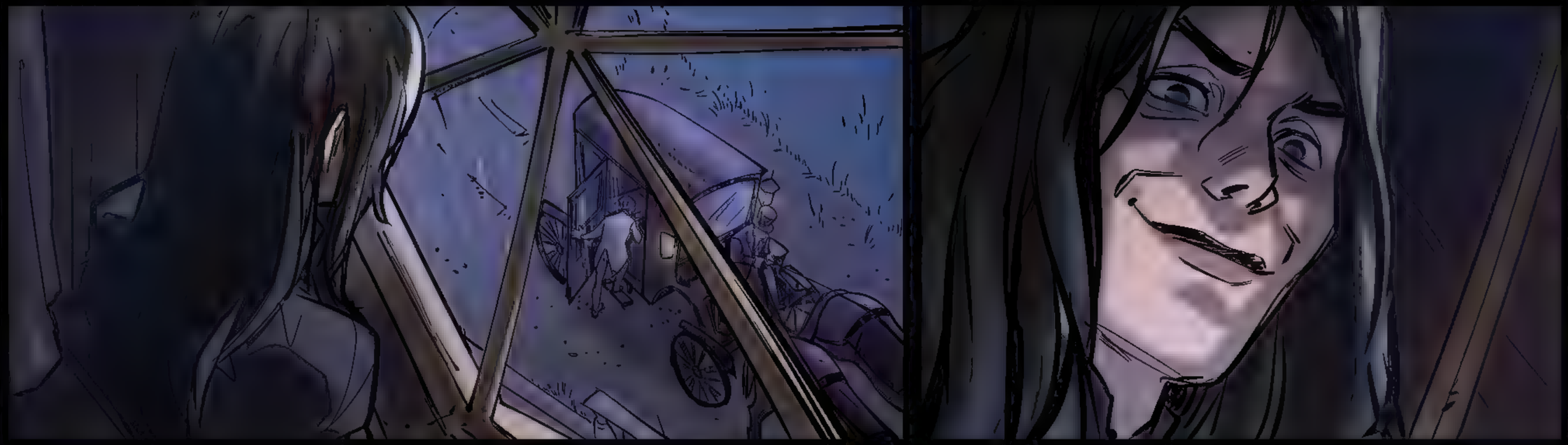
OF COURSE.
I'LL NEED A FEW DAYS
TO SECURE IT.

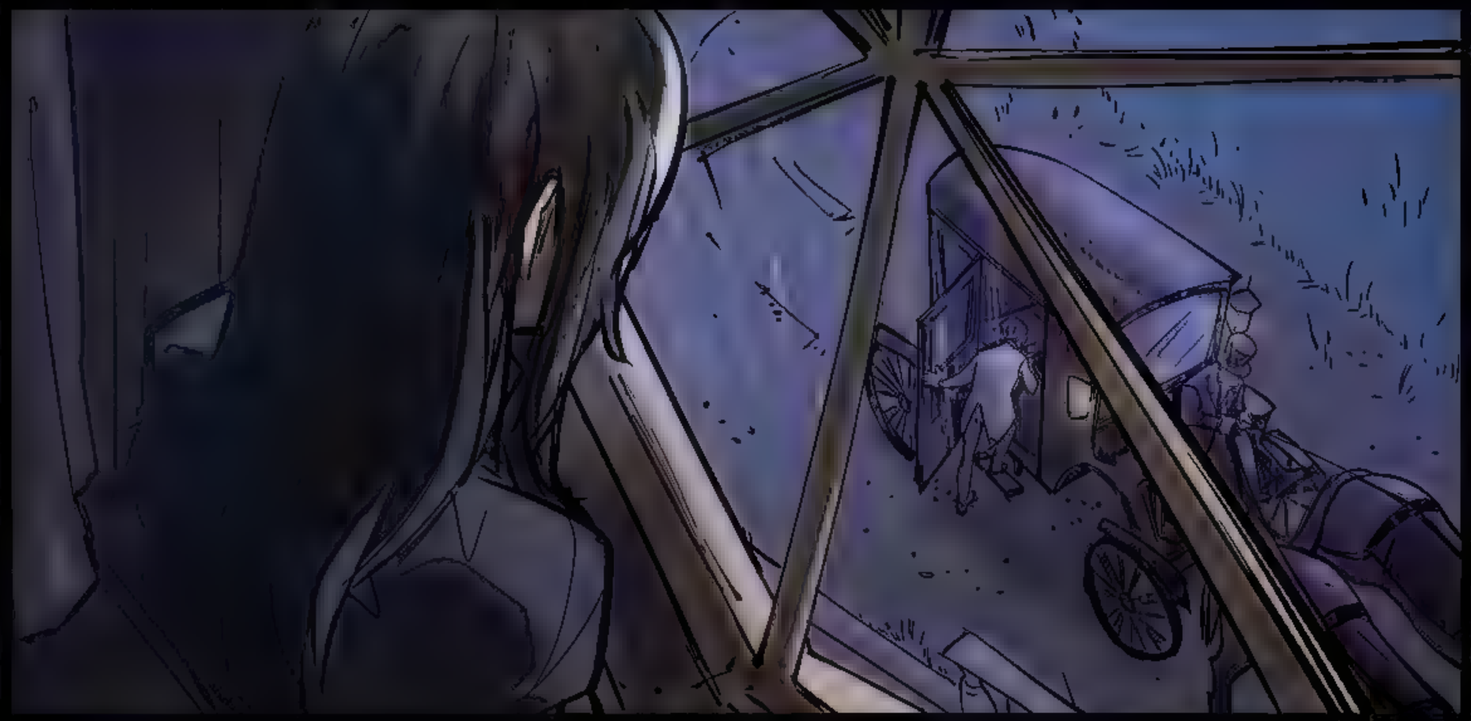
MEET ME
BACK HERE IN A
WEEK'S TIME.

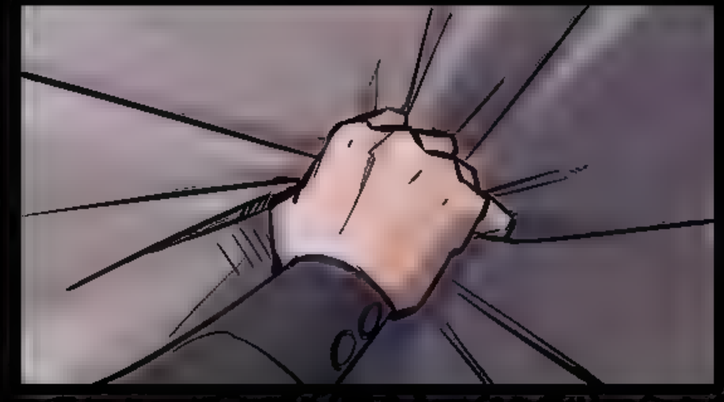
TREMENDOUS.

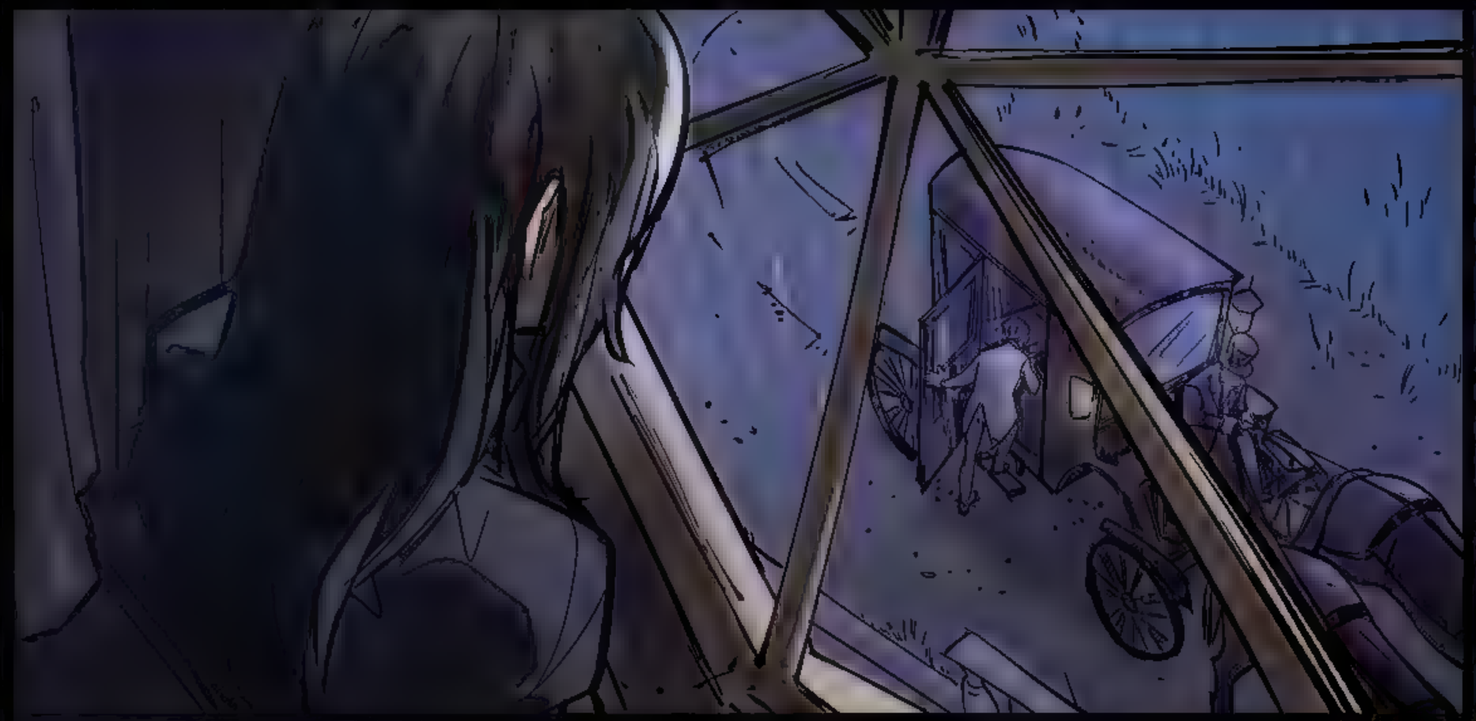
AND
ONCE I'VE TAKEN
IT OFF YOUR HANDS,
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO
HANG YOURSELF
IN PEACE.

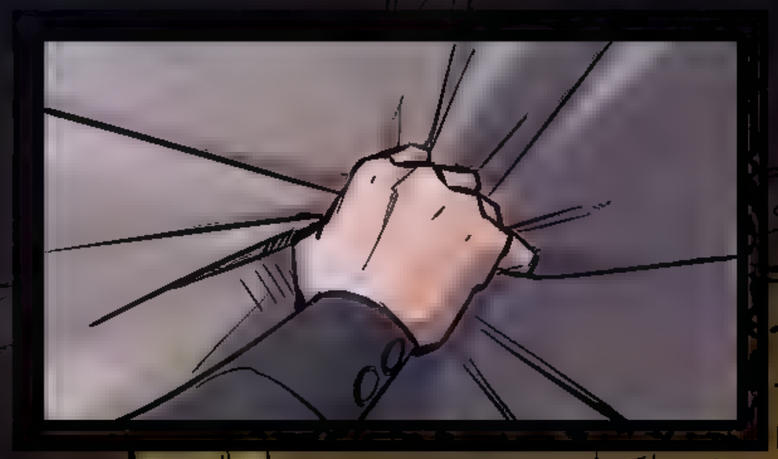
I LOOK
FORWARD
TO IT.

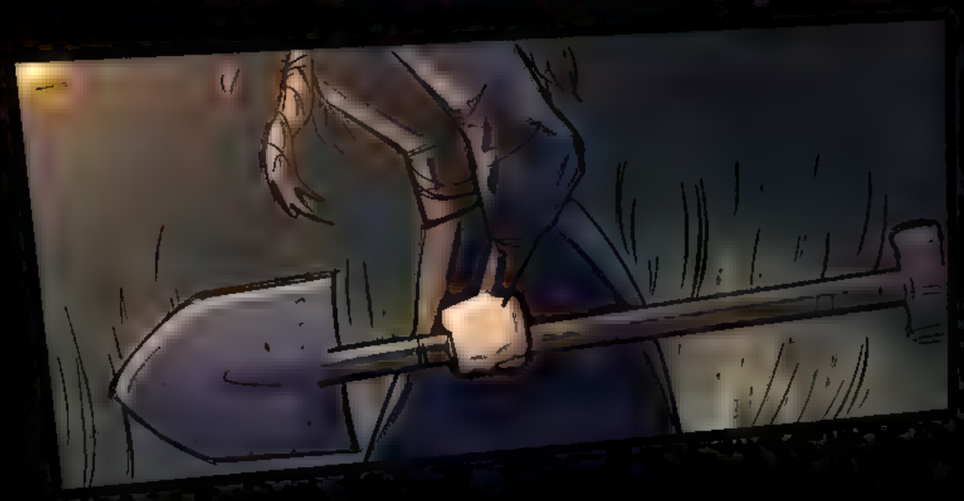


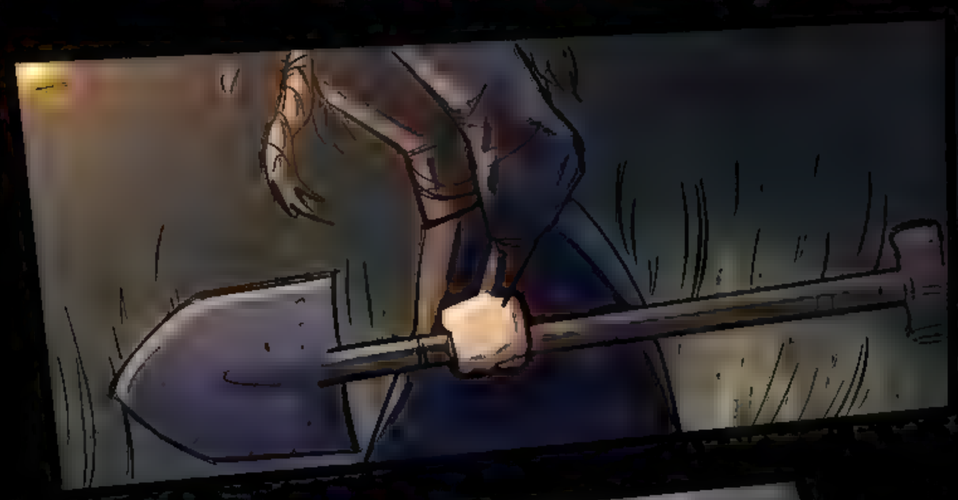


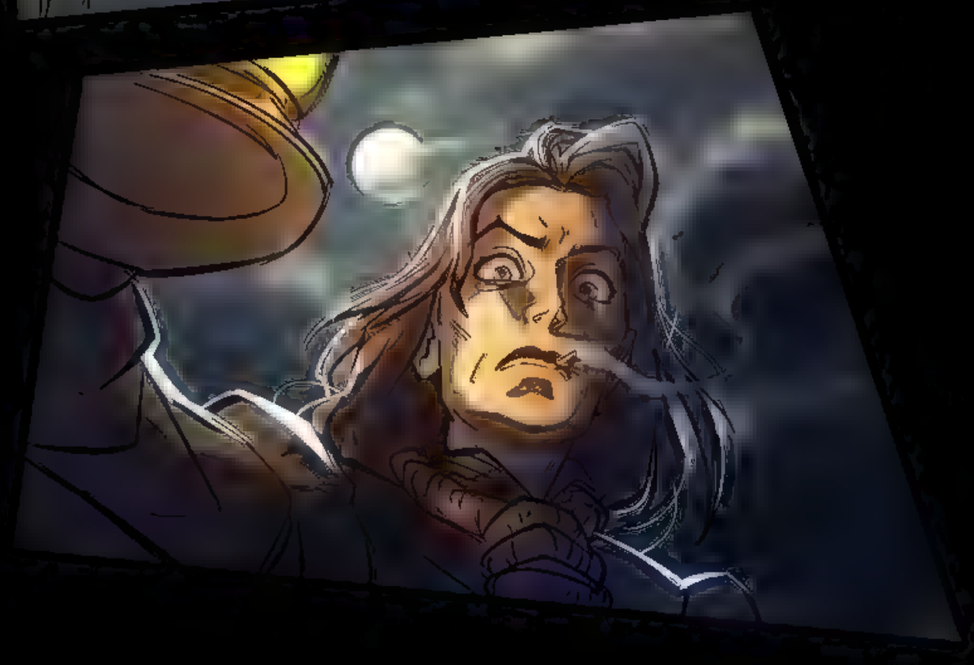










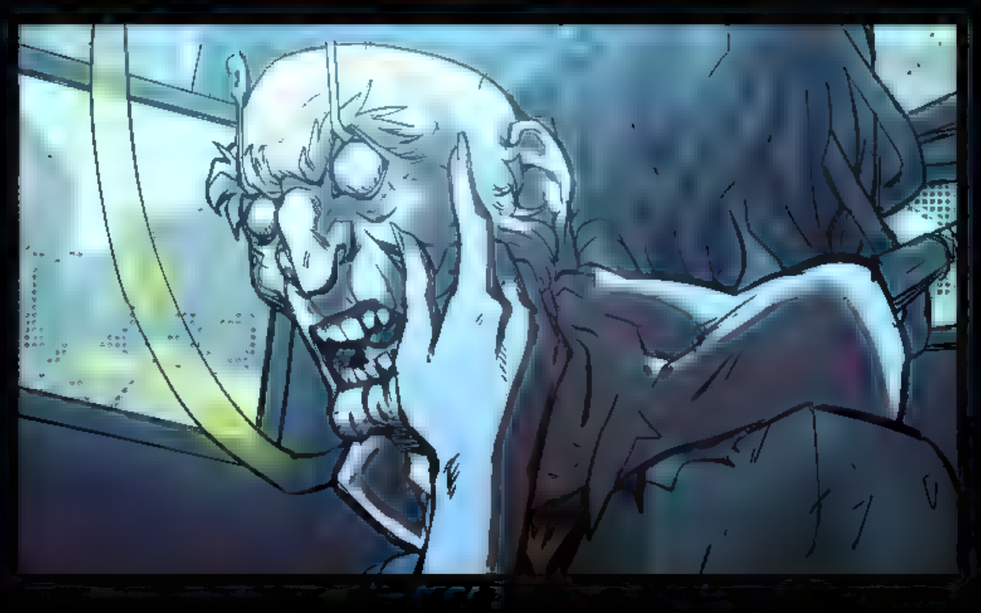


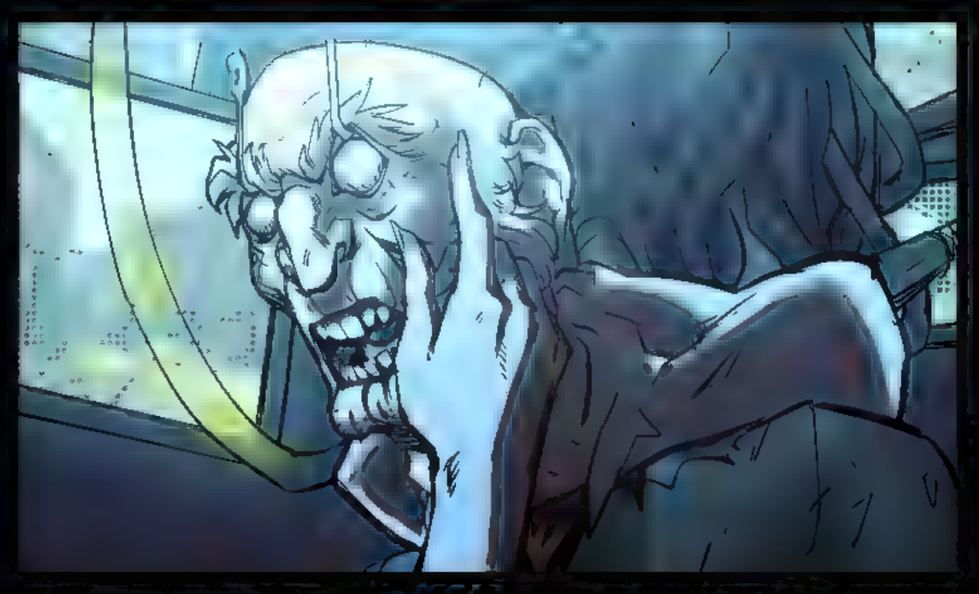
SCHLK

"THAT WAS THE START OF EVERYTHING."

AND WE'VE BEEN AT THIS EVER SINCE, HAVEN'T WE?

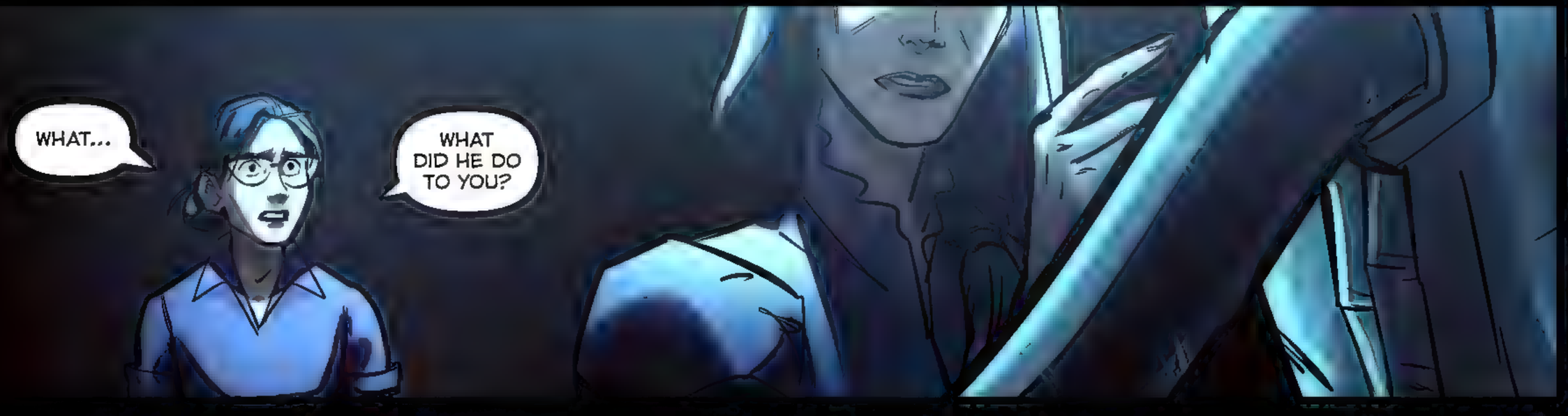
AND WE'VE BEEN AT THIS EVER SINCE, HAVEN'T WE?





JUST YOU AND ME.

JUST YOU AND ME.


WHAT...
WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?

WHAT...

WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?

AHEH. YOU KNOW... AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

I DON'T REMEMBER.

WHAT...

WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?

AHEH. YOU KNOW... AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

I DON'T REMEMBER.

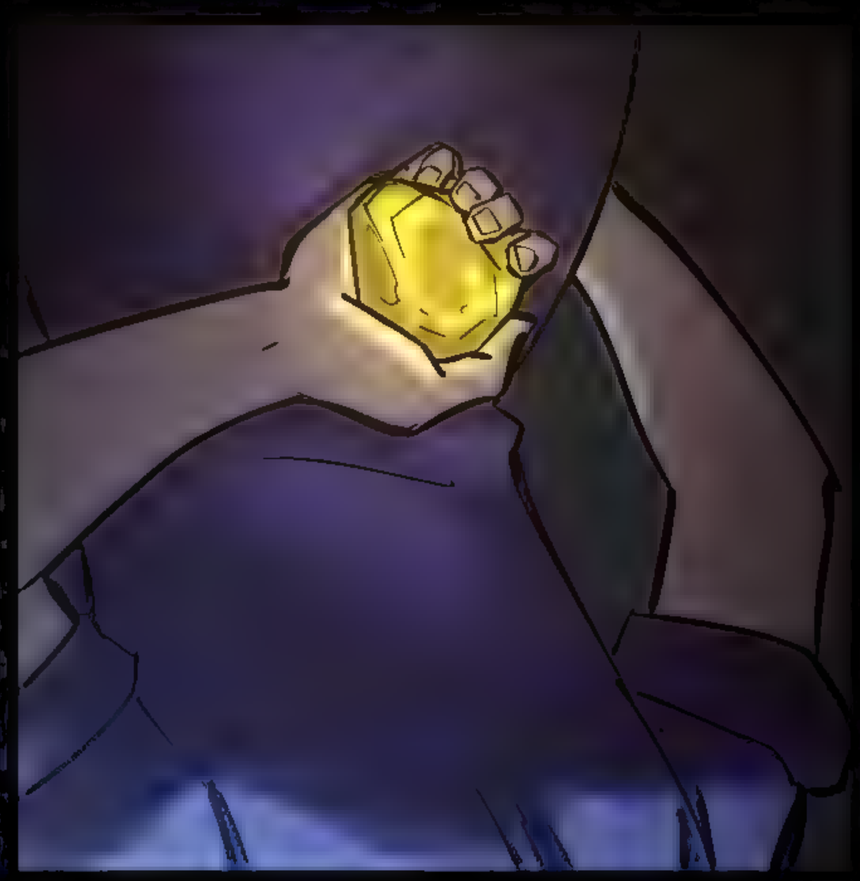
WAIT. WHY ARE YOU HERE?

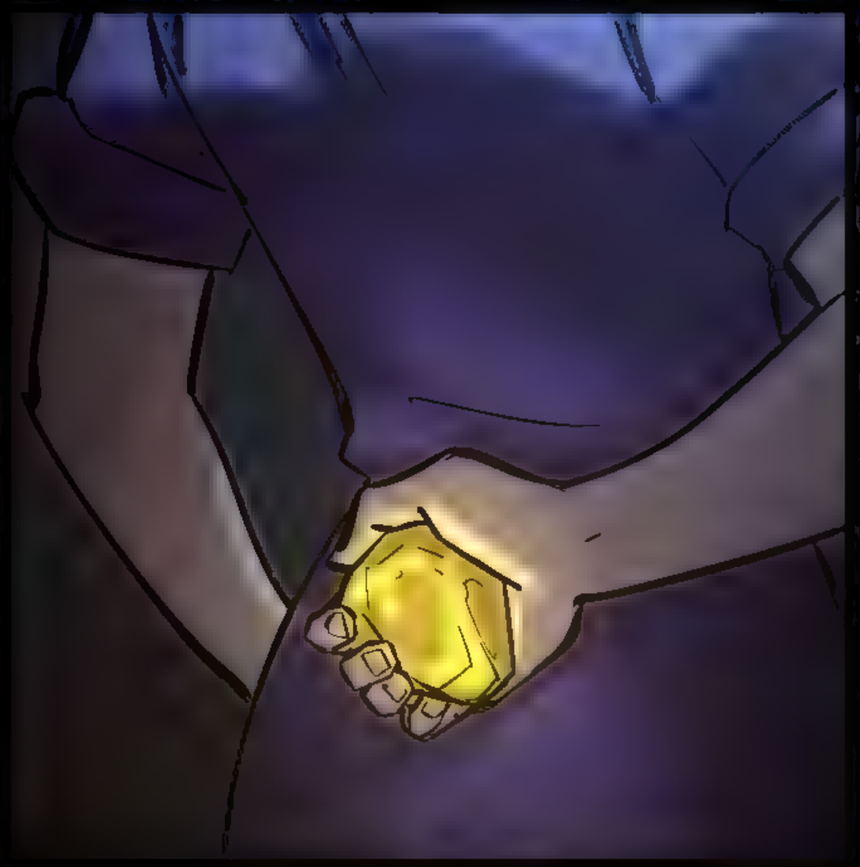
DID YOU *FIND* SOME?

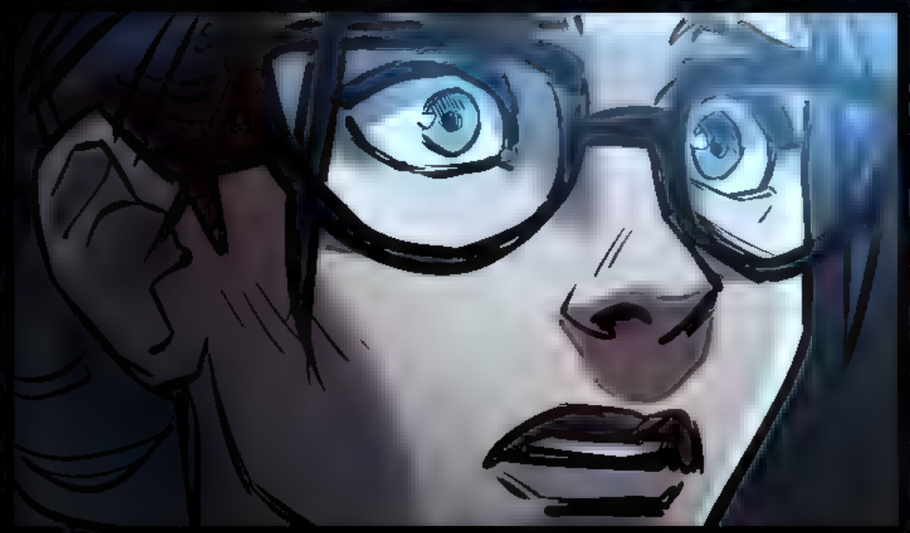
DID YOU FIND *MORE?*

MISS PAULING, LISTEN TO ME. THIS COULD CHANGE *EVERYTHING.*

DID YOU FIND US MORE?







NO.
I DIDN'T.

NO.
I DIDN'T.

NO.
I DIDN'T.

IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS, HASN'T IT?

IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS, HASN'T IT?
MAKING YOU WATCH YOUR SONS FAIL.
AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS, HASN'T IT?

MAKING YOU WATCH YOUR SONS FAIL.

AGAIN AND AGAIN.

ALL THAT...

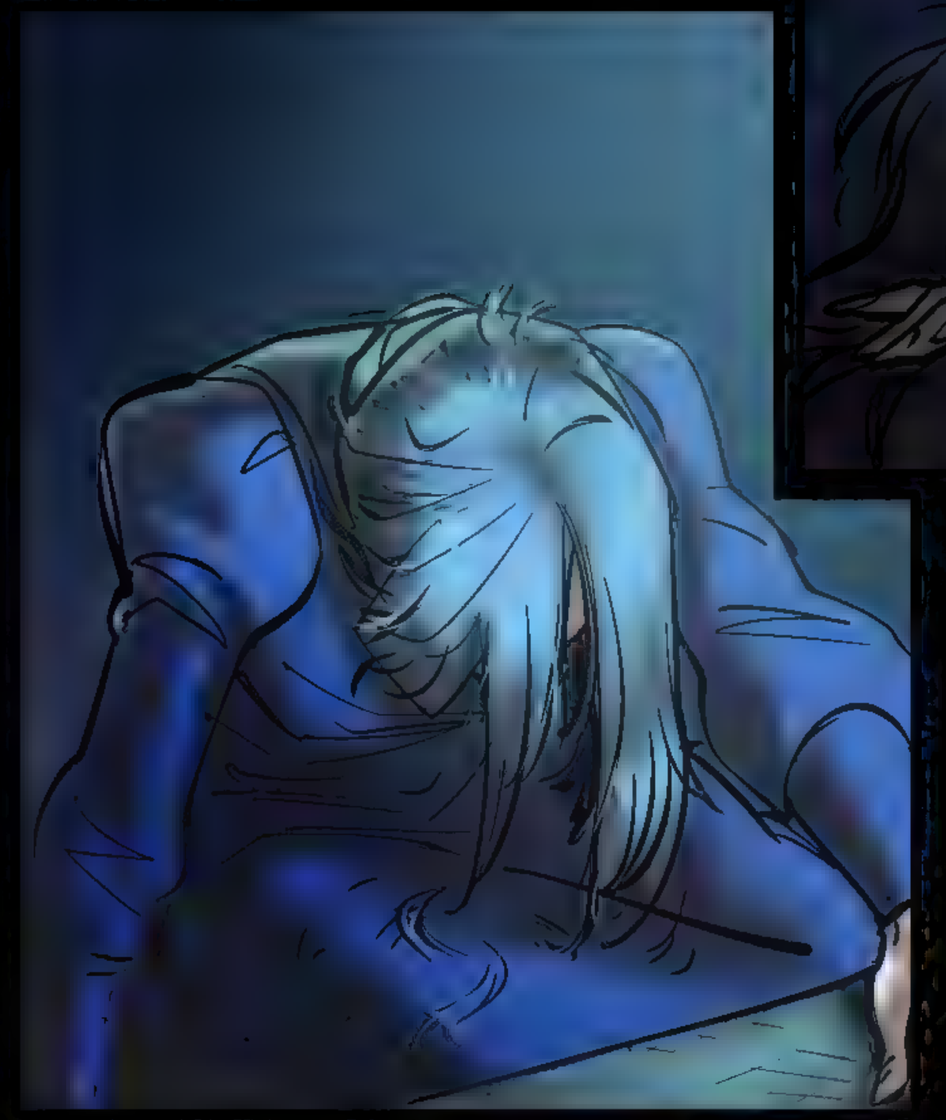
IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS, HASN'T IT?

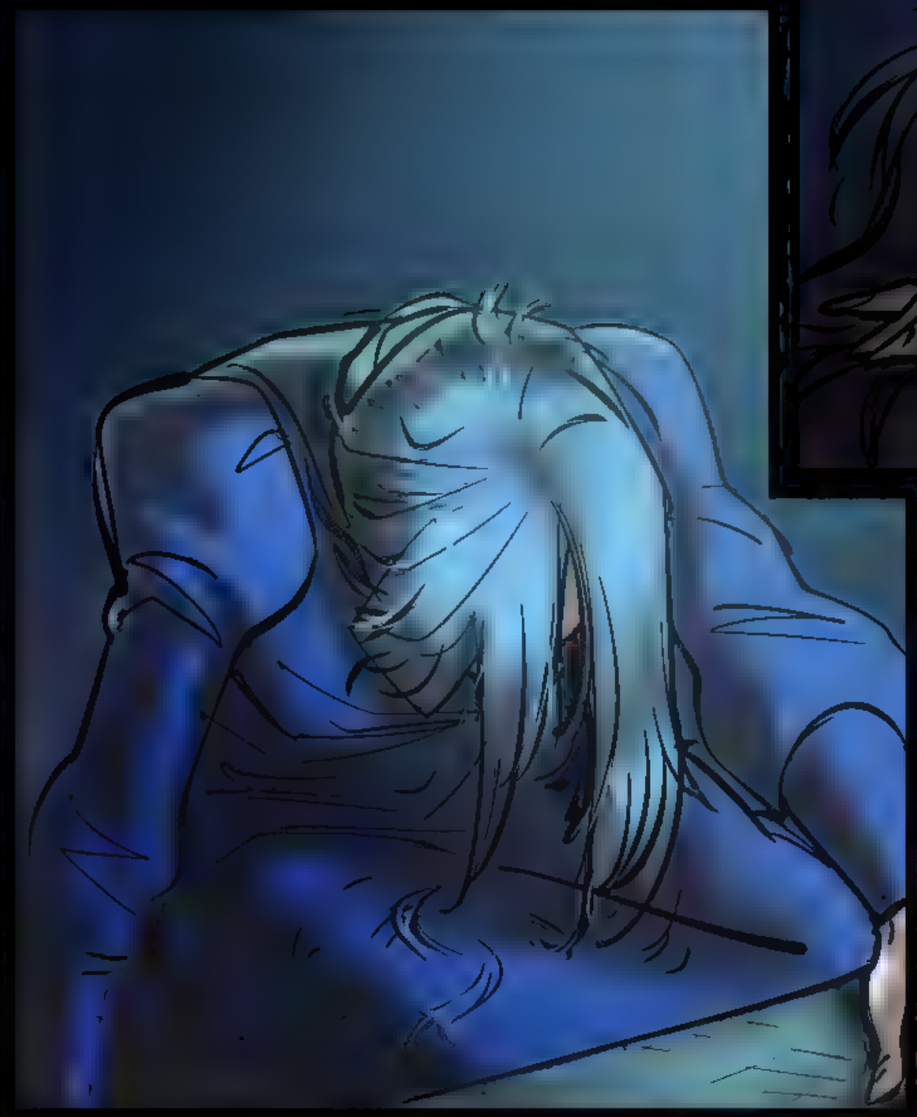
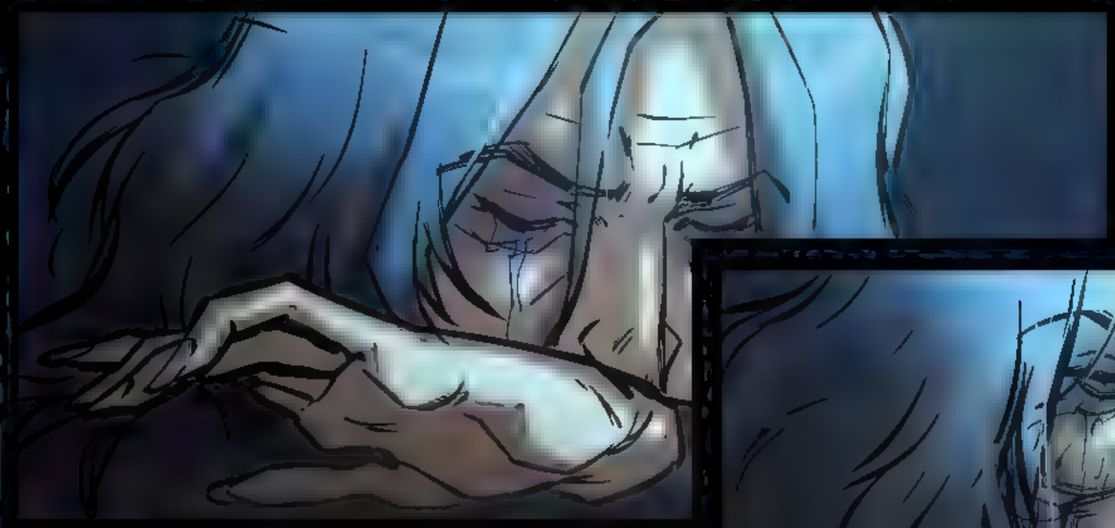
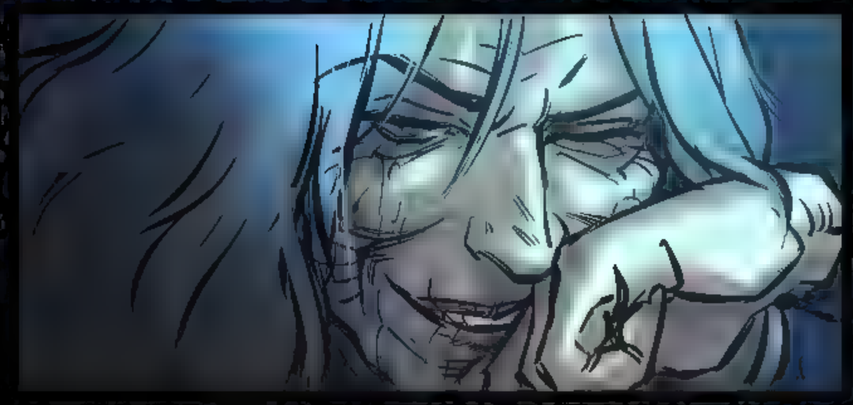
MAKING YOU WATCH YOUR SONS FAIL.

AGAIN AND AGAIN.

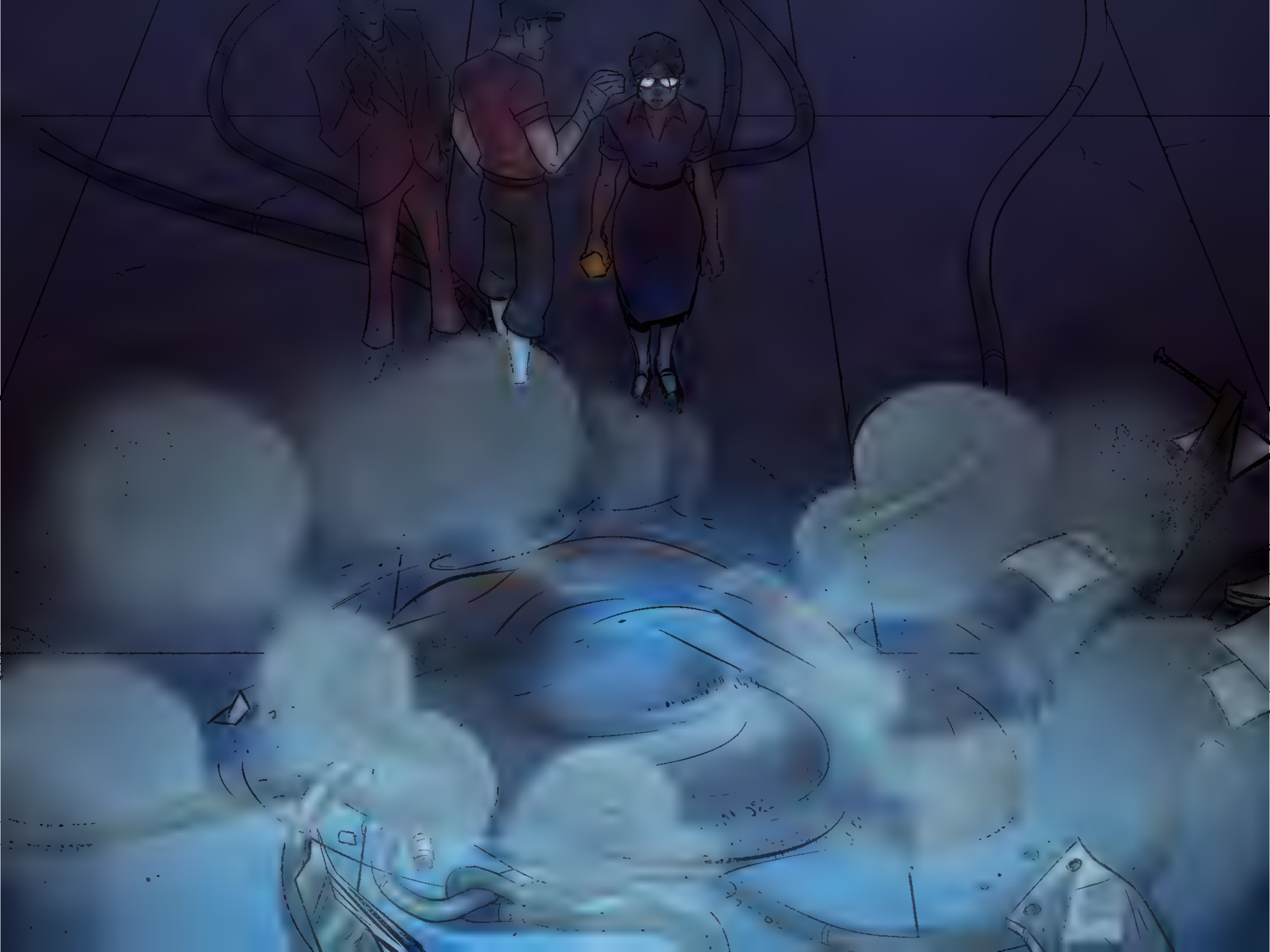
ALL THAT...

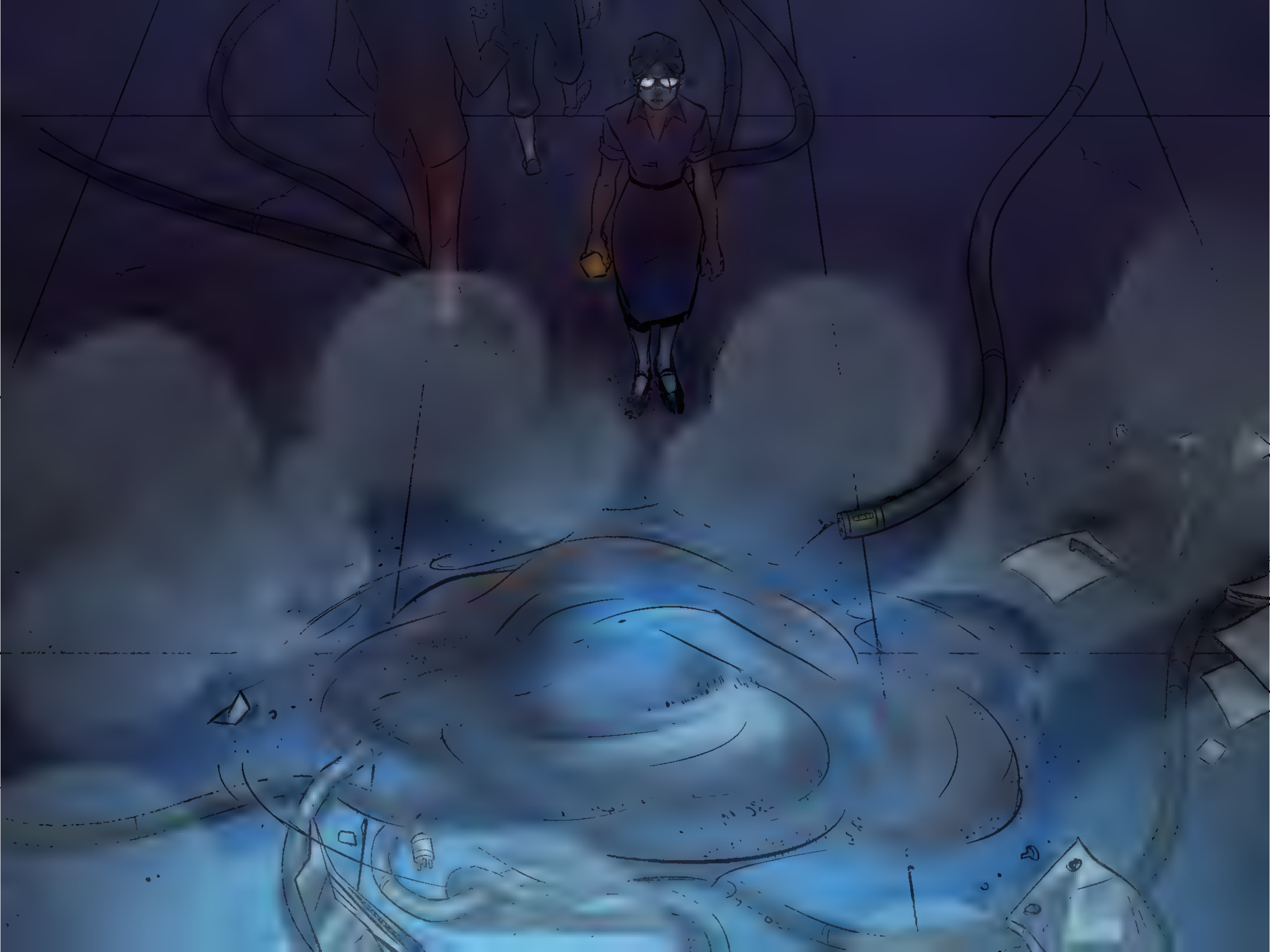
...WASTED TIME.

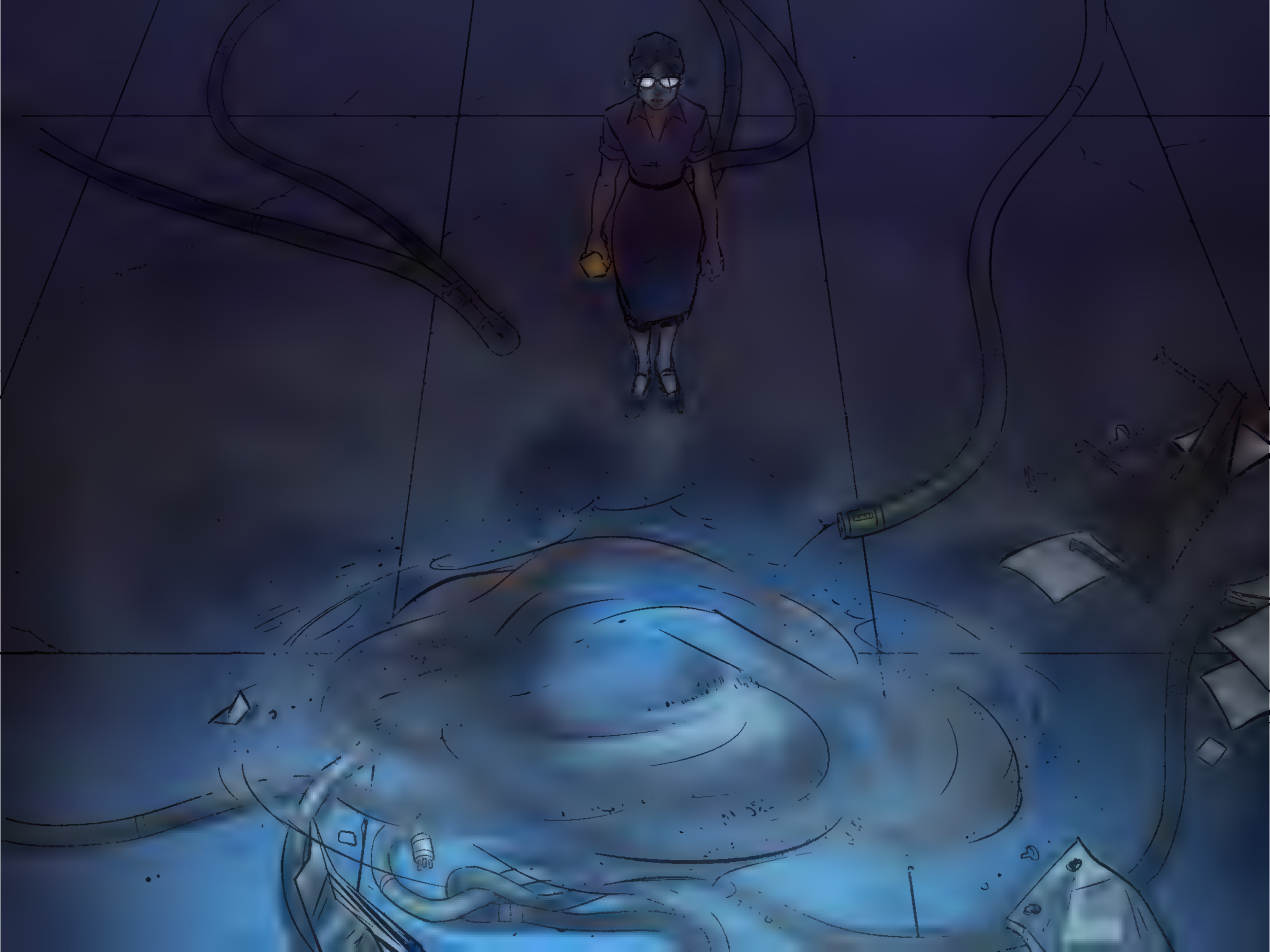


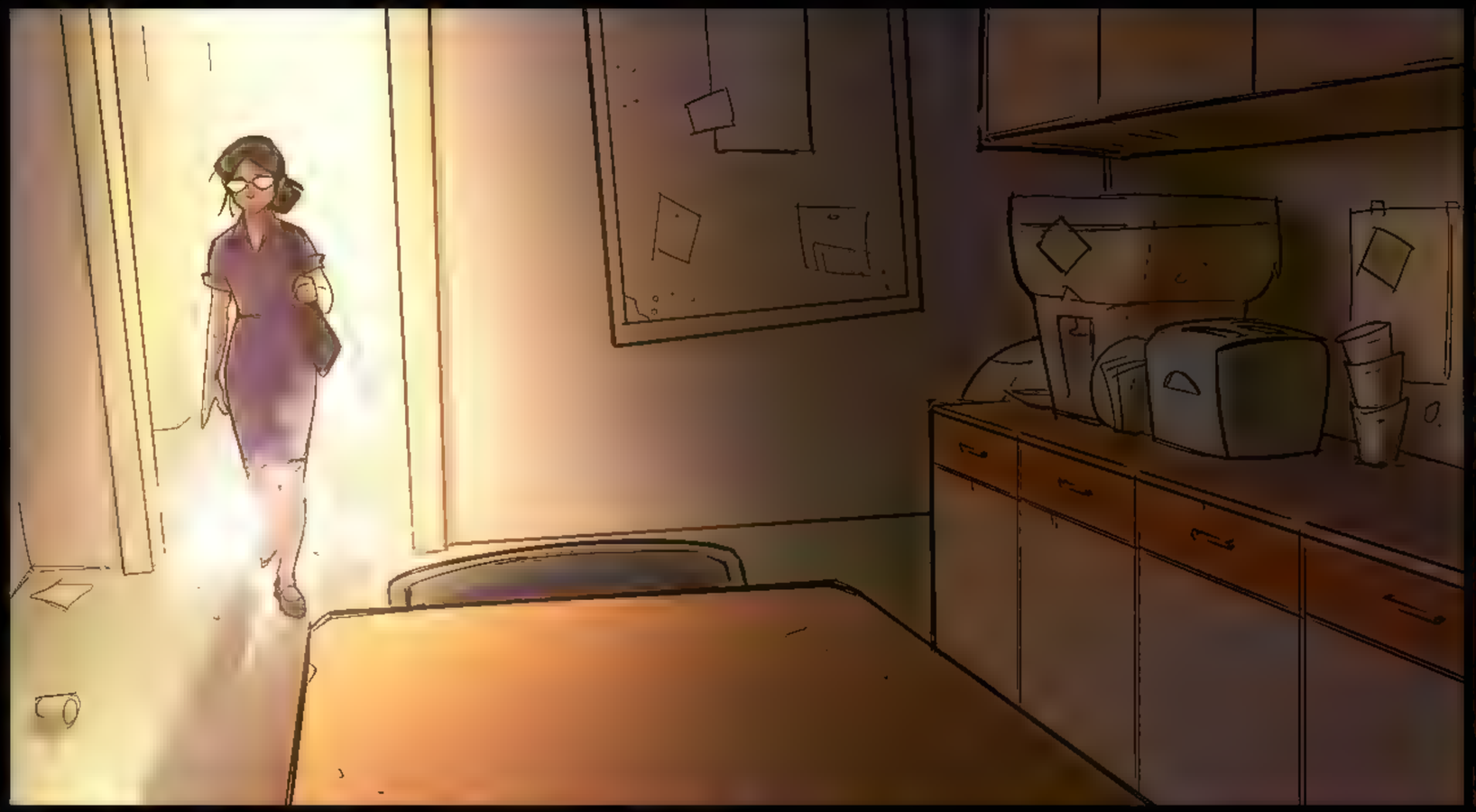




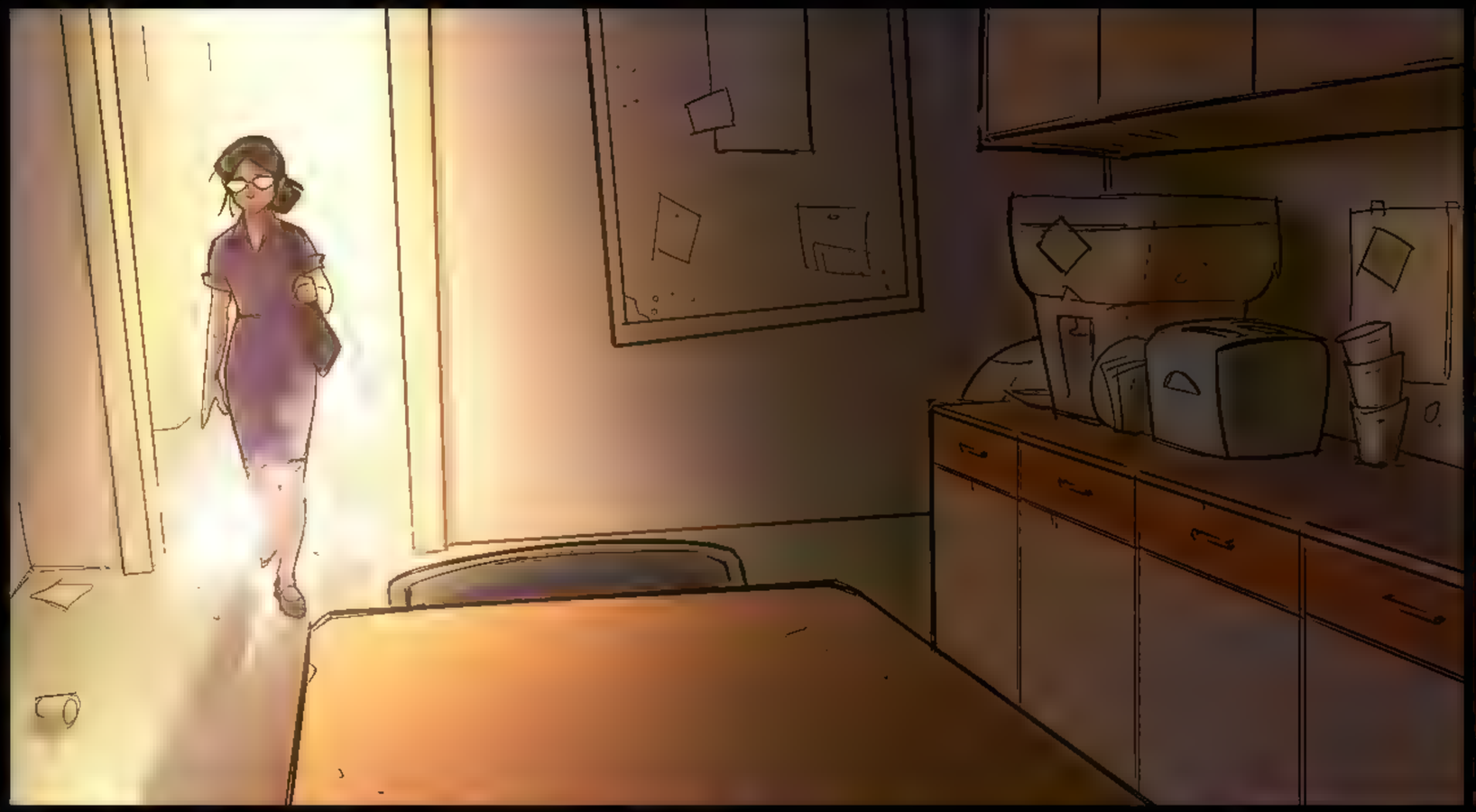
IT WAS WORTH IT.











IT'S YOURS NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH IT?
I DON'T KNOW.

GUESS YOU KNOW THE BIG SECRET NOW.
NEVER WAS ABOUT TAKIN' OVER THE WORLD FOR HER.

GUESS YOU KNOW THE BIG SECRET NOW.

NEVER WAS ABOUT TAKIN' OVER THE WORLD FOR HER.

WASN'T EVEN ABOUT REVENGE. NOT BY THE END, ANYHOW.

BY THE END IT WEREN'T ABOUT NOTHIN'.

GUESS YOU KNOW THE BIG SECRET NOW.

NEVER WAS ABOUT TAKIN' OVER THE WORLD FOR HER.

WASN'T EVEN ABOUT REVENGE. NOT BY THE END, ANYHOW.

BY THE END IT WEREN'T ABOUT NOTHIN'.

BUT IT *COULD* BE.

COULD BE ABOUT WHATEVER YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS DOING.

GUESS YOU KNOW THE BIG SECRET NOW.

NEVER WAS ABOUT TAKIN' OVER THE WORLD FOR HER.

WASN'T EVEN ABOUT REVENGE. NOT BY THE END, ANYHOW.

BY THE END IT WEREN'T ABOUT NOTHIN'.

BUT IT *COULD* BE.

COULD BE ABOUT WHATEVER YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS DOING.

COULD BE *YOU* DOIN' IT.

COULD BE YOU DOIN' ANY DAMN THING YOU WANT.

NICKEL'S WORTH OF ADVICE?

GO FIND SOLDIER'S CAVE.

YEAH...?

MAKE SURE YOU MINE EVERY LAST OUNCE OUT OF IT.

MAKE SURE YOU GET IT *ALL.*

PUT IT ON A BOAT. SAIL OUT TO THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.

NICKEL'S WORTH OF ADVICE?

GO FIND SOLDIER'S CAVE.

YEAH...?

MAKE SURE YOU MINE EVERY LAST OUNCE OUT OF IT.

MAKE SURE YOU GET IT *ALL*.

PUT IT ON A BOAT. SAIL OUT TO THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.

AND DROP IT DOWN THE DEEPEST TRENCH YOU CAN FIND.

BUT IT'S YOUR CALL, FLO.

IF YOU KEEP IT...

I AIN'T GONNA HELP YOU.

AND YOU OUGHTA KNOW THAT YOU WON'T *NEVER* BE FREE OF IT.

AND I MEAN MAYBE *REALLY* NEVER.

ENGIE.

YOU KNOW ANY DEEP TRENCHES?

I MIGHT KNOW A FEW.

ENGIE.

YOU KNOW ANY DEEP TRENCHES?

I MIGHT KNOW A FEW.

"...AND JUST WHEN WE ALL THOUGHT THE FRIDGE IN THE BREAK ROOM WAS FIXED AFTER ALL..."

"...IT MADE ANOTHER ***BRRRDDT*** NOISE."

"THE ENGINEER WALKED BACK INTO THE ROOM. TO FIX THE FRIDGE? NO, HE WALKED RIGHT PAST IT. WHY?"

"I'M AFRAID THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME."

THE END.
OH, THANK GO–

THE END.
OH, THANK GO–
EPILOGUE!
THE NEXT DAY, MISS PAULING AND THE ENGINEER CAME AND TOOK ALL OF THE GOLD OUT OF MY SAVINGS CAVE.
AND *THAT*... IS WHY I HAD TO BORROW MONEY FROM THE KOREAN MAFIA IN YOUR NAME.
BUT WHY DID YOU *NEED* THAT MUCH MONEY?

THE END.

OH, THANK GO–

EPILOGUE!

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AND *THAT...* IS WHY I HAD TO BORROW MONEY FROM THE KOREAN MAFIA IN YOUR NAME.

BUT WHY DID YOU ***NEED*** THAT MUCH MONEY?

I AM GLAD YOU ASKED. IT STARTS WITH THIS PHOTO.

THE END.

OH, THANK GO–

EPILOGUE!

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AND *THAT*... IS WHY I HAD TO BORROW MONEY FROM THE KOREAN MAFIA IN YOUR NAME.

BUT WHY DID YOU ***NEED*** THAT MUCH MONEY?

I AM GLAD YOU ASKED. IT STARTS WITH THIS PHOTO.

WAIT, YOUR ***HANDS*** ARE UNTIED?

YOU COULD HAVE FREED US AT ANY TIME?

WE'RE BEING ***TORTURED,*** SOLDIER!

HA! YOU CALL THIS TORTURE?

HA! YOU CALL THIS TORTURE?

WE DO CALL IT THAT, YES.

PERHAPS THERE IS A LANGUAGE BARRIER? WE ARE TORTURING YOU.

WE'VE BEEN TORTURING YOUR FRIEND WHILE YOU TALKED. HE'S DEAD NOW.

"DEAD?"
HA! MERASMUS, THEY CAN'T SEE YOU! QUICKLY! FIREBALL THEM BEFORE THEY TORTURE ME!
YES! I JUST NEED TO GET MY SPECTRAL HANDS OUT OF THESE ASTRAL BINDINGS! STALL THEM, SOLDIER!

"DEAD?"

HA! MERASMUS, THEY CAN'T SEE YOU! QUICKLY! FIREBALL THEM BEFORE THEY TORTURE ME!

YES! I JUST NEED TO GET MY SPECTRAL HANDS OUT OF THESE ASTRAL BINDINGS! ***STALL*** THEM, SOLDIER!

YOU GOT IT!

HEY YOU KOREANS!

I HEARD YOU'RE ***TERRIBLE*** AT TORTURING!

SOLDIER! I MEANT STALL THEM ***AWAY*** FROM TORTURING YOU!

AH. THAT IS ***NOT*** THE ROCK I JUST PUSHED DOWN THIS HILL.

WHO TOLD YOU THIS?

OUR TORTURE STYLE IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LANDS!

KENZI! TORTURE THIS MAN!

MERASMUS, HURRY! I THINK THEY'RE ABOUT TO TORTURE SOMEBODY!
ALLLMOST...

YOU GUYS ARE IN FOR SOME SORCERY NOW! QUICK, MERASMUS! UNLEASH HELL!
SOLDIER, MY GHOST HANDS ARE STILL–

MERASMUS, HURRY! I THINK THEY'RE ABOUT TO TORTURE SOMEBODY!

ALLLMOST...

YOU GUYS ARE IN FOR SOME SORCERY NOW! QUICK, MERASMUS! UNLEASH HELL!

SOLDIER, MY GHOST HANDS ARE STILL–

YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS, MERASMUS.

I CAN'T, SOLDIER.

I'M SORR–

WHAM

MERASMUS, HURRY! I THINK THEY'RE ABOUT TO TORTURE SOMEBODY!

ALLLMOST...

YOU GUYS ARE IN FOR SOME SORCERY NOW! QUICK, MERASMUS! UNLEASH HELL!

SOLDIER, MY GHOST HANDS ARE STILL–

YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS, MERASMUS.

I CAN'T, SOLDIER.

WHAM

ROOOAAAAR!

WHAM

...IT CAN'T BE...
...THE DOOR OF SUMMONING WAS SUPPOSED TO *TRAP* IT...
WELL, IT DIDN'T.

YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS BEFORE THAT THING EATS ALL OF US! YOU'RE FIRST BECAUSE YOU'RE SMALLEST. THEN MAGGIE, THEN ME.
YES. YES, LET ME UNTIE Y–
OR MAYBE HE'LL BREAK ALL YOUR BONES AND SAVE YOU FOR LATER!
EAT US FIRST AND MAKE YOU WATCH!
THEN HE'LL EAT YOUR LIMBS!
YOU'LL JUST BE A CRYING STUMP, DARLING. YOU'D BETTER UNTIE US OR–
I AM *TRYING* TO UNTIE YOU!

YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS BEFORE THAT THING EATS ALL OF US! YOU'RE FIRST BECAUSE YOU'RE SMALLEST. THEN MAGGIE, THEN ME.

YES. YES, LET ME UNTIE Y–

OR MAYBE HE'LL BREAK ALL YOUR BONES AND SAVE YOU FOR LATER!

EAT US FIRST AND MAKE YOU WATCH!

THEN HE'LL EAT YOUR LIMBS!

YOU'LL JUST BE A CRYING STUMP, DARLING. YOU'D BETTER UNTIE US OR–

I AM *TRYING* TO UNTIE YOU!

THERE! YOU'RE FREE! NOW *FIX THIS!*

STAND BACK, PEE WEE.

WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE *WRONG*, DARLING!

THERE IS *NOTHING* I NEED TO KNOW! I'VE GOT TWO FISTS AND MY BEST GIRL!

SO YOU JUST KEEP QUIET BACK THERE, AND WE'LL–

UH, SAX...

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE *WRONG*, DARLING!

THERE IS *NOTHING* I NEED TO KNOW! I'VE GOT TWO FISTS AND MY BEST GIRL!

SO YOU JUST KEEP QUIET BACK THERE, AND WE'LL–

UH, SAX...

ROAGH

ZZZARRRPPP

HOLY HELL, THAT'S NEW.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU! THIS IS NO *NORMAL GIANT SLOTH!*

IT'S THE *MEGATHERIUM* OF *MICTLAN!* PROTECTOR OF THE AZTEC UNDERWORLD!

ROOAAAR!

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU! THIS IS NO *NORMAL GIANT SLOTH!*

IT'S THE *MEGATHERIUM* OF *MICTLAN!* PROTECTOR OF THE AZTEC UNDERWORLD!

ROOAAAR!

OKAY, DARLING'S AN IDIOT AND HE'S SUMMONED A MONSTER FROM AZTEC HELL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO, MAGS?

WELL, THE WAY I FIGURE IT, SAX...

IF HE BLEW *INTO* THAT DUMB TRUMPET TO *BRING* THAT THING HERE...

MAYBE A SECOND TOOT SENDS IT BACK!

HA! MAGS! THAT'S JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO WORK!

IT'S NOT CRAZY ENOUGH! IT WON'T WORK!
YOU MUST BLOW THE SUMMONING HORN *THREE TIMES* IN QUICK SUCCESSION!
RRRR...

IT'S NOT CRAZY ENOUGH! IT WON'T WORK!
YOU MUST BLOW THE SUMMONING HORN *THREE TIMES* IN QUICK SUCCESSION!
RRRR...
HEY, UGLY!
SORRY TO *HORN IN* ON–

IT'S NOT CRAZY ENOUGH! IT WON'T WORK!

YOU MUST BLOW THE SUMMONING HORN ***THREE TIMES*** IN QUICK SUCCESSION!

RRRR...

HEY, UGLY!

SORRY TO ***HORN IN*** ON–

I WASN'T FINISHED!

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN THE BEAST'S ATTENTION, BREATHE IN THROUGH YOUR NOSE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PUSHING AIR OUT THROUGH YOUR MOUTH!

THIS IS ***CIRCULAR BREATHING!*** IT WILL PRODUCE A CONTINUOUS DRONE SOUND THAT–

GLMMPH

IT'S NOT CRAZY ENOUGH! IT WON'T WORK!

YOU MUST BLOW THE SUMMONING HORN ***THREE TIMES*** IN QUICK SUCCESSION!

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THIS IS ***CIRCULAR BREATHING!*** IT WILL PRODUCE A CONTINUOUS DRONE SOUND THAT–

GLMMPH

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!

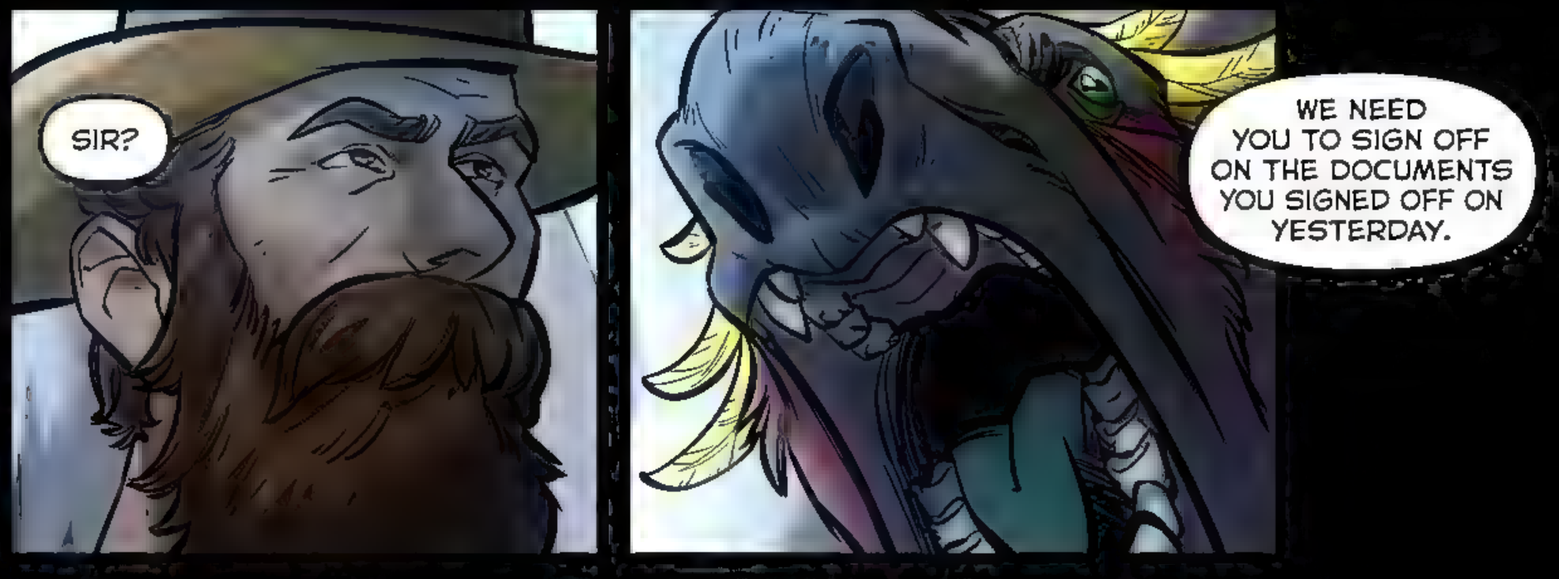
HEY! MONSTER!

HOW ABOUT YOU SWALLOW THAT APPETIZER...

...AND COME GET ***DINNER!***

WAIT! SPIT OUT THE APPETIZER!

"SIR?"


SIR?
WE NEED YOU TO SIGN OFF ON THE DOCUMENTS YOU SIGNED OFF ON YESTERDAY.

SIR?

WE NEED YOU TO SIGN OFF ON THE DOCUMENTS YOU SIGNED OFF ON YESTERDAY.

PRESENT DAY (1979)

I HATE THIS PLACE, BIDWELL.

NOT THIS AGAIN.

SIR?

WE NEED YOU TO SIGN OFF ON THE DOCUMENTS YOU SIGNED OFF ON YESTERDAY.

PRESENT DAY (1979)

I HATE THIS PLACE, BIDWELL.

NOT THIS AGAIN.

YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED, SIR. YOU GOT MANN CO BACK.

YOU SOUND LIKE OLIVIA.

OLIVIA?

GRAY MANN'S DAUGHTER. SHE TOOK OVER MANN CO FROM YOU. AND THEN YOU STORMED BACK IN SEVEN YEARS AGO AND TOOK IT BACK.

OH RIGHT. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HER?

STILL HERE.

OHHHH, RIGHT. SORRY, IT'S HARD TO SEE YOUR TINY DESK FROM UP HERE.

STILL HERE.

OHHHH, RIGHT. SORRY, IT'S HARD TO SEE YOUR TINY DESK FROM UP HERE.

SIR, WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE LETTING HER DRINK.

SIR, SHE'S FOURTEEN.

AH, COME ON, BIDWELL. IT'S JUST THE LITTLE AIRPLANE BOTTLES.

WHY *SHOULDN'T* I DRINK, BIDWELL?

BECAUSE YOU ARE FOURTEEN.

EVER SINCE I WAS A BABY, I WAS PART OF MY STUPID DAD'S STUPID WORLD TAKEOVER.

I DON'T WANT TO RUN A COMPANY! I HATE IT HERE!

ALL WE DO IS SELL GUNS TO STUPID MORONS AND SIT IN THIS STUPID ROOM WITH ALL THESE STUPID STUFFED ANIMALS!

THOSE ARE MISTER HALE'S TROPHIES, OLIVIA.

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I DON'T WANT TO RUN A COMPANY! I HATE IT HERE!

ALL WE DO IS SELL GUNS TO STUPID MORONS AND SIT IN THIS STUPID ROOM WITH ALL THESE STUPID STUFFED ANIMALS!

THOSE ARE MISTER HALE'S TROPHIES, OLIVIA.

HE WORKED *VERY* HARD TO FIGHT ALL THOSE–

LIKE A *BILLION YEARS* AGO! EVERYTHING IN THIS *ROOM* IS A TROPHY!

IF YOU GOT A NEW ONE, WHERE WOULD YOU EVEN *PUT* IT?

SHE'S RIGHT.

OLIVIA?

WHAT?

YOU'RE FIRED.

REALLY?

REALLY?

GO LIVE YOUR LIFE.

MAKE YOUR OWN TROPHIES.

SIR, SHE IS A CHILD AND YOU ARE HER GUARDIAN.
YOU CAN'T LET HER LEAVE. THAT'S ACTUALLY ILLEGAL.
RIGHT, I GOT CARRIED AWAY. KEEP AN EYE ON HER. SET UP A TRUST.
ANYTHING SHE WANTS TO DO. MAKE SURE SHE CAN DO IT.
BIDWELL?

SIR, SHE IS A CHILD AND YOU ARE HER GUARDIAN.

YOU CAN'T LET HER LEAVE. THAT'S ACTUALLY ILLEGAL.

RIGHT, I GOT CARRIED AWAY. KEEP AN EYE ON HER. SET UP A TRUST.

ANYTHING SHE WANTS TO DO. MAKE SURE SHE CAN DO IT.

BIDWELL?

SIR?

I'M FIRED TOO. MANN CO'S YOURS.

SIR, I– I COULDN'T POSSIBLY...

ALRIGHT, YOUR LOSS.

REDDY?

YES SIR?

YOU OWN MANN CO NOW.

YES SIR.

BEAR POLIS

GOODBYE, REDDY.
GOODBYE, SIR.
GOODBYE, BIDWELL.
UM. MAYBE WE COULD BOTH CO-OWN...?

GOODBYE, REDDY.
GOODBYE, SIR.
GOODBYE, BIDWELL.
UM. MAYBE WE COULD BOTH CO-OWN...?
YOU TWO WORK OUT THE DETAILS.
THAT LITTLE GIRL WAS RIGHT.
I NEED SOME NEW TROPHIES.
AND I KNOW JUST THE GAL TO HELP ME GET 'EM.

RRRRRRRRAGGGGGHH!

SMASH

RRRRRRRRAGGGGGHH!

SMASH

OH, HI, HEAVY.

LOOK, MERASMUS! IT'S THE COMMUNIST I USED TO WORK WITH. I'M MARRIED TO HIS SISTER.

OUR STORY BEGINS IN SIBERIA, WHERE A GIANT HOT DOG AND I TRACKED–

WELL, AREN'T WE BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE.

HERE I THOUGHT WE'D ONLY GET TO TORTURE TWO AMERICANS TO DEATH TODAY...

AND NOW WE HAVE THREE.

WELL, AREN'T WE BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE.

HERE I THOUGHT WE'D ONLY GET TO TORTURE TWO AMERICANS TO DEATH TODAY...

AND NOW WE HAVE THREE.

AH. I SEE.

SO. WE ARE AT AN IMPASSE.

AND I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR NEGOTIATION.
WE'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.

AND I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR NEGOTIATION.
WE'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.

AND I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR NEGOTIATION.
WE'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.
I DO NOT KNOW WHO THAT IS.

AND I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR NEGOTIATION.

WE'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.

I DO NOT KNOW WHO THAT IS.

IT'S MY BEST FRIEND! DEAD MERASMUS!

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WE'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.

I DO NOT KNOW WHO THAT IS.

IT'S MY BEST FRIEND! DEAD MERASMUS!

OOHHHH. THIS IS THE OLD WITCH WOMAN WHO TRIED TO KILL US ON HALLOWEEN FOR MANY YEARS.

I REMEMBER NOW.

AND I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR NEGOTIATION.

WE'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES.

I DO NOT KNOW WHO THAT IS.

IT'S MY BEST FRIEND! DEAD MERASMUS!

OOHHHH. THIS IS THE OLD WITCH WOMAN WHO TRIED TO KILL US ON HALLOWEEN FOR MANY YEARS.

I REMEMBER NOW.

I DO NOT CARE.

AH! WE DON'T EITHER. EXCELLENT.

WHAT WE *CARE* ABOUT IS THIS ONE. THE ONE WHO IS NOT DEAD.

AH! WE DON'T EITHER. EXCELLENT.

WHAT WE *CARE* ABOUT IS THIS ONE. THE ONE WHO IS NOT DEAD.

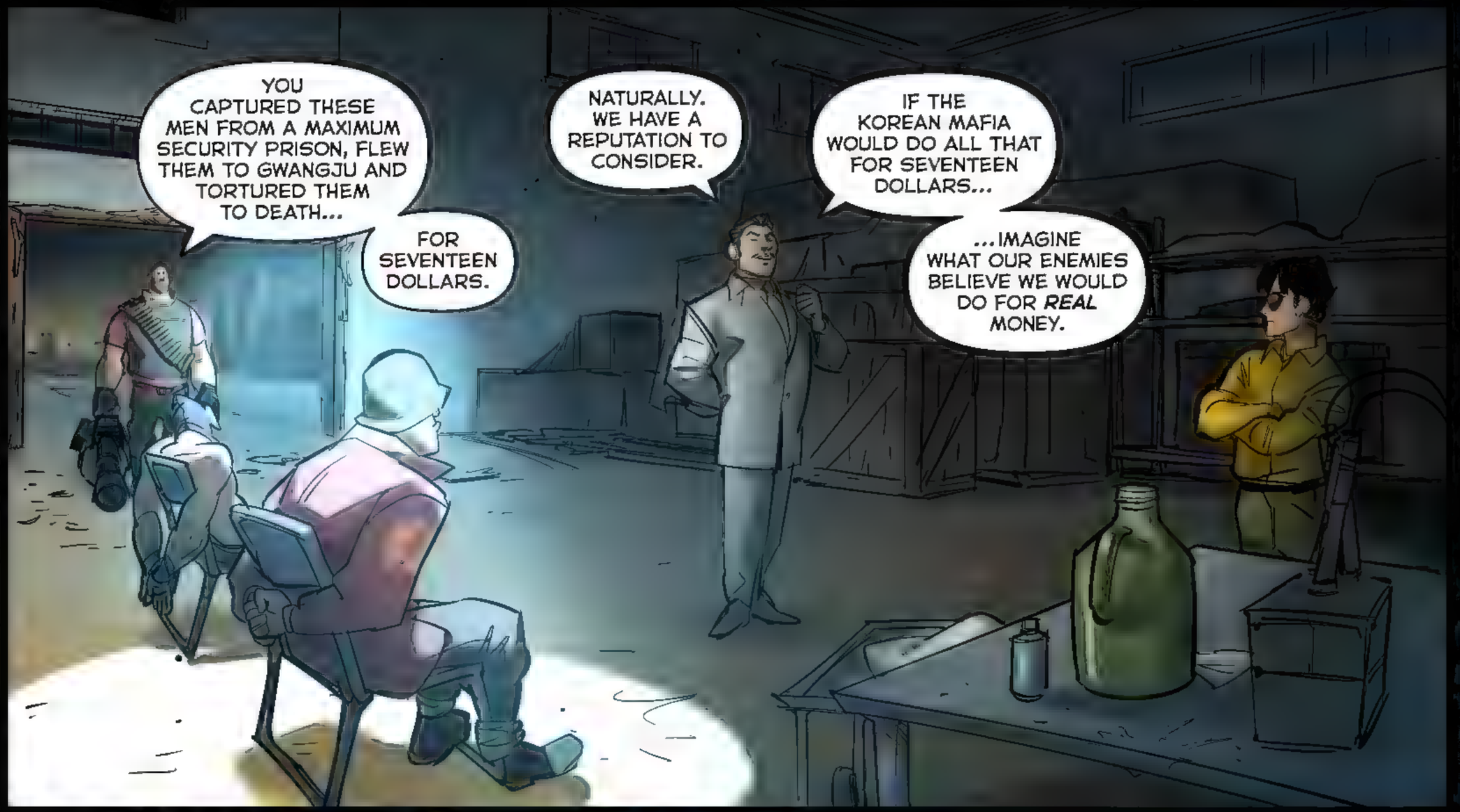
HE OWES US 12,000 WON.

NOBODY LEAVES UNTIL THE DEBT IS CLEARED.

12,000 WON. THAT IS...

SEVENTEEN U.S. DOLLARS.

YOU CAPTURED THESE MEN FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, FLEW THEM TO GWANGJU AND TORTURED THEM TO DEATH...
FOR SEVENTEEN DOLLARS.


YOU CAPTURED THESE MEN FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, FLEW THEM TO GWANGJU AND TORTURED THEM TO DEATH...
FOR SEVENTEEN DOLLARS.
NATURALLY. WE HAVE A REPUTATION TO CONSIDER.
IF THE KOREAN MAFIA WOULD DO ALL THAT FOR SEVENTEEN DOLLARS...
...IMAGINE WHAT OUR ENEMIES BELIEVE WE WOULD DO FOR *REAL* MONEY.

YOU CAPTURED THESE MEN FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, FLEW THEM TO GWANGJU AND TORTURED THEM TO DEATH...

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CAN YOU BREAK A TWENTY?

YOU CAPTURED THESE MEN FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, FLEW THEM TO GWANGJU AND TORTURED THEM TO DEATH...

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HMM...

YOU CAPTURED THESE MEN FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, FLEW THEM TO GWANGJU AND TORTURED THEM TO DEATH...

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NATURALLY. WE HAVE A REPUTATION TO CONSIDER.

IF THE KOREAN MAFIA WOULD DO ALL THAT FOR SEVENTEEN DOLLARS...

...IMAGINE WHAT OUR ENEMIES BELIEVE WE WOULD DO FOR *REAL* MONEY.

CAN YOU BREAK A TWENTY?

HMM...

I CANNOT.

IT SEEMS WE ARE ONCE AGAIN AT AN IMPA–

JUST KEEP IT.

OKAY, MERASMUS, I HAVE TO GO NOW.
HAVE FUN HAUNTING THIS KOREAN DRUG FACTORY.
WHAT? NO! SOLDIER, DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!

OKAY, MERASMUS, I HAVE TO GO NOW.

HAVE FUN HAUNTING THIS KOREAN DRUG FACTORY.

WHAT? NO! SOLDIER, DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? YOU GOT KILLED *HERE*, MERASMUS.

NOW YOU'VE GOT TO HAUNT IT FOR ALL TIME.

I DON'T MAKE THE RULES. IT'S GHOST LAW.

WAIT!

I COULD HAUNT THIS BRICK!

HERE! PUT IT IN YOUR POCKET!

HEY, GUY WHO TORTURED ME. CAN I HAVE THIS BRICK?

ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME WITH IT?

I DON'T THINK SO.

THEN SURE.

THERE. BUT NOW WE'RE EVEN.

EVEN?

HEY, GUY WHO TORTURED ME. CAN I HAVE THIS BRICK?

ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME WITH IT?

I DON'T THINK SO.

THEN SURE.

THERE. BUT NOW WE'RE EVEN.

EVEN?

SOLDIER, YOU BROKE INTO MY HOME AND *KILLED* TOM JONES!

THEN YOU FRAMED *ME* FOR THE MURDER!

THEN LET ME ROT IN A *JAIL CELL* FOR SEVEN YEARS!

THEN LET ME GET *TORTURED* AND *KILLED* BY THE KOREAN MAFIA!

HOW ON *EARTH* ARE WE *EVEN?*

TELL YOU WHAT. WHY DON'T WE GO GRAB A BRICK FROM YOUR HOUSE I BURNED DOWN AFTER I KILLED TOM JONES.

YOU BURNED DOWN MY *HOUSE?*

I WAS WANTED FOR *MURDER,* MERASMUS. STAY WITH ME HERE.

SON, I'M SAYING WE CAN GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSE AND GRAB A *BRICK...*

...AND YOU AND TOM JONES CAN *BOTH* LIVE IN MY PANTS FOREVER.

WHATAYA SAY?

TELL YOU WHAT. WHY DON'T WE GO GRAB A BRICK FROM YOUR HOUSE I BURNED DOWN AFTER I KILLED TOM JONES.

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WHATAYA SAY?

ALRIGHT, FINE.

GOOD, THAT'S SETTLED.

NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE SEES ME. I'M WANTED IN KOREA FOR MURDER.

Willis-~~Mitchell~~
Willis-~~Graham~~
Willis-~~Gibson~~

FROM THE CITY OF
TEUFORT, NM

JEREMY WILLIS
10027 Lynn Street
Boston, MA 02114

ONE WEEK LATER.

ONE WEEK LATER.

HEY-Y-Y-Y!

LOOK WHO IT IS, KIDS!

HELLO, JEREMY.

I APOLOGIZE. AM I EARLY?
NAH!
I MEAN, YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE HERE, SO A LITTLE.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST ONE OF THESE WE'VE EVER DONE, SO I SAY YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME.
COME ON IN!

I APOLOGIZE. AM I EARLY?

NAH!

I MEAN, YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE HERE, SO A LITTLE.

BUT THIS IS THE FIRST ONE OF THESE WE'VE EVER DONE, SO I SAY YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME.

COME ON IN!

OH MY GOODNESS. SO MANY CHILDREN.

THESE ARE *ALL* YOURS?

HELL YEAH THEY ARE. MY BOYS CAN SWIM.

MY GIRLS TOO. WE ALL JUST GOT BACK FROM THE POOL.

GUYS! GO TAKE THOSE SWIMSUITS OFF, YOU'RE GETTIN' WATER EVERYWHERE!

IS... YOUR WIFE HOME?

THEM? NAH. NONE OF THEM DEADBEATS ARE IN THE PICTURE CURRENTLY. I'M RAISIN' THESE ON MY OWN.

YES, BUT *HOW?*

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE A JOB. WE DON'T OFFICIALLY *EXIST.* I BURNED YOUR FINGERPRINTS OFF MYSELF.

PSH THAT'S EASY. I SUED THE CITY!

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YOU SUED...

THE CITY OF TEUFORT!

I BROKE MY LEG LIKE SIX TIMES OUT THERE, MY ARM ABOUT A DOZEN, LIKE THIRTY CONCUSSIONS.

I DON'T EVEN THINK I'VE GOT KIDNEYS ANYMORE. OR MAYBE I GOT TOO MANY?

POINT IS, I KNOW I LOOK GOOD, BUT TRUST ME, I'M A *MESS* ON THE INSIDE!

THEY *OWE* ME!

WE WERE *MURDERING* PEOPLE OUT THERE. FOR *YEARS.*

I KNOW! THAT'S HOW I BROKE MY ARM!

DADDY! DADDY!

WHAT IS IT, TANYA?
TOMMY BROKE MY TIARA!
I CAN'T BE A PRINCESS NOW!
TANYA, HELLO.
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM YOUR...

WHAT IS IT, TANYA?

TOMMY BROKE MY TIARA!

I CAN'T BE A PRINCESS NOW!

TANYA, HELLO.

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM YOUR...

FATHER'S FRIEND. FROM WORK.

TANYA. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS EVEN ***BETTER*** THAN A PRINCESS?

WHAT?

A PRINCESS
ASSASSIN.

A PRINCESS *ASSASSIN.*

YOU HAVE A LOVELY FAMILY, JEREMY.

THANKS! YOU SHOULD COME BY MORE OFTEN, YOU'RE *GREAT* WITH 'EM!

HOLD ON, I THINK THEY'RE HERE!

BONK FARMS
This MegaTurkey™
Courtesy of
Ms. P

DING DONG
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD AND START, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

DING DONG

YOU GUYS GO AHEAD AND START, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

DING DONG

YOU GUYS GO AHEAD AND START, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

OH HEY, IT'S **YOU!**

GET IN HERE, YOU BIG DUMMY.

NAH, WE'RE JUST STARTIN'!
I EVEN SAVED YA A SEAT.

NAH, WE'RE JUST STARTIN'!

I EVEN SAVED YA A SEAT.

Y'KNOW...

I'M REAL GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

NAH, WE'RE JUST STARTIN'!

I EVEN SAVED YA A SEAT.

Y'KNOW...

I'M REAL GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, YOU AND US.

AND I...

WELL, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW YOU STUCK AROUND, AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

NAH, WE'RE JUST STARTIN'!

I EVEN SAVED YA A SEAT.

Y'KNOW...

I'M REAL GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, YOU AND US.

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WELL, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW YOU STUCK AROUND, AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

ALRIGHT, C'MON, LET'S EAT BEFORE THIS GETS EMBARRASSIN'.

MISS PAULING BOUGHT US A TURKEY!

BUT JUST REMEMBER...

"WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE *ANY* OF THIS WITHOUT YOU."

MERRY SMI S

THE AFRICAN VELDT.

NOW.

HA! WE'RE ***REALLY*** IN FOR IT NOW, MAGS!

FIST-FIGHTING ALL THESE CHEETAHS MANAGED TO ATTRACT ***MORE CHEETAHS!***

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE EITHER GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT 'EM ALL, SAX...
OR JUMP OFF THIS CLIFF.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAGS...

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE EITHER GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT 'EM ALL, SAX...

OR JUMP OFF THIS CLIFF.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAGS...

YOU WANNA LIVE FOREVER?

THE END